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It's Kewell vs Beckham!

By Daniel Quinn

Etiad Stadium hosts a special encounter on Tuesday the 6th of December. It's Harry Kewell vs. David Beckham or Melbourne Victory vs LA Galaxy - A former Liverpool star versus a former Manchester United star.

Victory fans would be used the odd world class friendly as Victory have taken on Juventus, Mark Schwarzer's Fulham, South American giants Boca Juniors and most recently Scottish giants Celtic. These games have all had good crowds and are an occasion which Melbourne Victory fans look forward to each season.

English Premier League leaders and super rich Manchester City have also been reported to be one to look out for at Etihad Stadium. City who are sponsored by Etihad also play at...guess what? Etihad Stadium in Manchester. A battle of the Etihad Stadiums could be on the menu soon for Melbourne fans. But looking to the near future, newly crowned MLS champions LA Galaxy are up next.

LA has just won their third MLS Cup by defeating The Houston Dynamo 1-0 thanks to a Landon Donovan goal which was assisted by Irish international and former Tottenham striker Robbie Keane.

In the regular season they finished top of the Western Conference with 67 points from 34 games, four points ahead of Seattle in second. Those 34 games only included five defeats which were all on the road as they kept an undefeated record at The Home Depot Centre.



Football fans can watch the star-strudded LA Galaxy take on Melbourne Victory on Tuesday.

It maybe all about Kewell and Becks but there will be places up for grabs as LA have just finished their season and Victory are in an important stage with key games to come.

Melbourne Victory has tough and important games against Newcastle Jets before LA and Adelaide United after to think about. Newcastle is only one point off and a defeat in The Hunter Valley could see Victory drop to as low eighth depending on results. Adelaide are currently second last on 9 points but only two points behind Victory in a tight league. Victory would need to beat The Reds to not only get revenge

for earlier in the season but to continue climbing the table to stay in contention with the runaway leaders Brisbane Roar.

Important players like Archie Thompson, Carlos Hernandez, Adrian Leijer and Grant Brebner may or may not all be rested. Plus with the injuries of Tando Velaphi, Jean Carlos Solorzano and Matthew Kemp youngsters may be called upon. Luke O'Dea, Jimmy Jeggo, Lawrence Thomas, Petar Franjic, Paulo Retre and Nick Ansell could all be called on for the hosts.

LA has brought it a strong squad and has only left out three of their players

from the championship winning team. Beckham is joined by USA international Landon Donovan, Robbie Keane, Brazilian playmaker Juninho and MLS Defender of the Year Omar Gonzalez, just to name a few.

MLS 2010 Goalkeeper of the year and Jamaican international Donovan Ricketts has however been withdrawn from the squad. He has been traded to new MLS expansion club Montreal Impact. Ricketts kept 7 clean sheets in 15 games in an injury hampered season. Josh Saunders came in for the injury Ricketts to take over the no 1 shirt and impress to guide LA to the MLS Cup.

Match Details

Melbourne Victory
v
LA Galaxy
Tuesday 6th December, 2011
Etihad Stadium, Melbourne
Kick Off: 7.30pm AEDT
Gates Open: 6.00pm

Robbie Keane has been in great form and has even been flying back to Europe to take part in the Euro 2012 Qualifiers. Keane was vital for The Republic of Ireland against Estonia in their 4-0 first leg victory with two key goals showing that The MLS may not be for "washed-up soccer stars".

This game could be the last for David Beckham as he is out of contract come the end of the year and with Qatari backed French club PSG, Becks could be tempted to move to fill his bank account even more. Beckham unlikely will move back to the EPL as he stated he couldn't play for anyone else other than the club he still supports and played for - Manchester United.

Two players who are reported to start is Harry Kewell with David Beckham. Whether either would play the full 90 is another question. With both ageing on, both having injury problems and with Victory needing to keep Kewell fit for the A-League it is doubtful.

I would think LA will go in as favourites as they have just completed their season and should be fit whereas Victory have been inconsistent in times and have some key injuries. However LA may take the game with a foot off the pedal in a typical post-season friendly fashion as seen in the past. With Victory likely to give youngsters a go and LA consisting of a strong squad I predict a LA Galaxy win, 1-0 with Robbie Keane the scorer.

Short Passes

AUSTRALIA PLANS TO BE A TOP 10 FOOTBALL NATION

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has formally published the new Strategic Plan for the period of 2011 to 2015 with a vision for Australia to become a Top 10 football nation.

Ben Buckley outlined the FFA vision at the official reception for Acting AFC President Zhang Zilong on Monday this week. The Strategic Plan statement of intent includes;

- Development of a football culture ingrained with unique Australian characteristics.
- Producing technically-gifted Australian players from an elite player pathway that's the equal of the world's best.
- Building a Hyundai A-League that rivals the best in Asia.
- Making football a sporting and social powerhouse in Australia.

To view the full Football in Australia Strategic Plan 2011-15 please visit www.footballaustralia.com.au

LOWY UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED AT FFA AGM

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy and directors Brian Schwartz and Phill Wolanski have been unanimously re-elected at the Annual General Meeting of Football Federation Australia (FFA).

"I feel privileged by the outcome and I thank the State and Territory Member Federations and the Hyundai A-League clubs for their endorsement," said Mr Lowy.

"I'm honoured to be re-elected for a further four-year term as the Chairman of FFA and I'm delighted that my fellow directors, Brian Schwartz and Phill Wolanski, were also re-elected.

"We have a Board in place that has the right mix of skills and experience to guide the game over the next four years."

Becvinovski available to coach
Former NSL star Sasha Becvinovski is on the lookout for a senior coaching position for season 2012. He can be contacted on 0419 509 867.

New Investors for Mariners Moore and Alagich honoured

Central Coast Mariners have confirmed that talks are underway with potential new investors in the Hyundai A-League club.

The Mariners have taken the step of announcing the existence of talks to assure the Central Coast community that the foundation principles of the club will be protected.

"We are renowned as the community club of the Hyundai A-League due to our engagement with the people of the Central Coast," said Central Coast Mariners chairman, Peter Turnbull.

"I want to assure our members and our fans that the foundation principles that underpin our club are non-negotiable. Those very strengths are what have attracted the potential new investors.

"To continue the growth of the Mariners we need to replenish our capital and that's what the talks aim to achieve.

"The Central Coast community is rightly proud of what the Mariners have built and this process is about making our house sustainable for the long-term."

Mr Turnbull stated that the club is still on firm footing, but is experiencing short-term cash flow difficulties.

"Our players and staff understand the situation and remain supportive of the club's management," said Turnbull.

"We are working with the FFA and have a sound business model in place.



An injection of funds appear to be on the way to Blutoogee.

Our long-term vision for a diversified business includes the Centre of Excellence, the first stage of which sees the Soccer5s complex having its first open day next Wednesday.

"Central Coast Mariners are in a good position. We are currently sitting second on Hyundai A-League ladder and are about to enter our second stint in the AFC Champions League.

"I have no doubt Central Coast Mariners will go from strength to strength and with the investment of new capital we will only become a stronger force in Australian football," Turnbull concluded.

Talks with the potential investors re-

main Commercial in Confidence and no further comment will be made by the club at this stage.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has sent a message of support to Dylan Tombides who is undergoing treatment for testicular cancer at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

"The thoughts and best wishes of the Australian football community are with Dylan Tombides and his family at this difficult time," said FFA CEO, Ben Buckley.

"I can only imagine Dylan's enormous frustration at missing competitive football while he deals with the health issue, but he should know there's a green and gold shirt waiting for him.

"Dylan is an outstanding young player who showed his undoubted pedigree at the FIFA Under 17 World Cup this year. He was our best player in the tournament and we all want to see him back on a football pitch as soon as possible," concluded Buckley.

Qantas Socceroo Craig Moore, Westfield Matilda Di Alagich and journalists Mike Cockerill and Ted Simmons were honoured at the 2011 Football Federation Australia Hall of Fame in Sydney.

The Football Federation Australia Hall of Fame is the game's top honour and provides an opportunity to recognise football's past by paying tribute to the greats, both men and women.

There are two categories - the Hall of Champions which celebrates the legends of the sport on the field and the Hall of Honour which recognises sustained, outstanding contribution off the field.

This year has seen the induction of

two greats of the game, both men's and women's, with Craig Moore and Dianne Alagich being honoured at the America Club.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) also honoured football trailblazer and former Qantas Socceroo Ned Zelic who was on hand to accept his 2010 induction into the Hall of Champions.

"FFA is proud to continue the tradition of the Hall of Fame by honouring some of the greats from our recent history," said FFA CEO Ben Buckley.

"The three players inducted into the Hall of Champions include Westfield Matilda Di Alagich together with Qantas Socceroo's Craig Moore and Ned Zelic, who collected his 2010 induction.

"Di Alagich is widely regarded as an unfaltering competitor who played a long and celebrated career for the Westfield Matildas. Ned Zelic and Craig Moore both enjoyed stellar careers as players and it is wonderful to see their active participation in the game continue as commentators, to further promote football in Australia," he said.

"Craig Moore's representation of Australia at every underage level before going on to feature strongly in two FIFA World Cups marks him as

one of the true greats of the modern game."

Those inducted into the Hall of Honour include Mike Cockerill and Ted Simmons.

"Mike Cockerill and Ted Simmons have both had a lasting effect on the game in Australia," continued Buckley.

"Their contributions to the game using the written word has created a vivid, tangible and lasting impact on football in Australia.

"Both Mike and Ted will be permanently ingrained into Australian football's psyche as not only influential pundits but friends and admirers of the game."

In addition to the Football Federation Australia Hall of Fame inductions, FFA assisted the Sport Australia Hall of Fame acknowledgment of the 1974 Qantas Socceroo's including head coach Rale Rasic and players Ray Baartz, Ernie Campbell, Ron Corry, Col Curran, John Doyle, Jim Fraser, George Harris, Jack Reilly, Ray Richards, Max Tolson, Doug Utjesenovic, Dennis Yaager as well as team medico, Dr Brian Corrigan, who were in attendance at the event.

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	8	6	2	0	22	5	17	20
2 Central Coast Mariners	8	4	2	2	11	8	3	14
3 Melbourne Victory	8	2	5	1	9	8	1	11
4 Sydney FC	8	3	2	3	10	11	-1	11
5 Newcastle Jets	8	3	1	4	8	12	-4	10
6 Perth Glory	8	3	1	4	7	12	-5	10
7 Melbourne Heart	8	2	3	3	11	11	0	9
8 Wellington Phoenix	8	2	3	3	9	9	0	9
9 Adelaide United	8	2	3	3	7	13	-6	9
10 Gold Coast United	8	1	2	5	11	16	-5	5

THIS WEEK	Week 9	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 2 Dec 2011	Adelaide United v Central Coast Mariners	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 3 Dec 2011	Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory	Ausgrid Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat 3 Dec 2011	Perth Glory v Gold Coast United	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
	Sun 4 Dec 2011	Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	Latrobe Cplx, Morwell	3:00pm	3:00pm
	Sun 4 Dec 2011	Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
	Wed 7 Dec 2011	Sydney FC v Perth Glory	Campbelltown Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm

NEXT WEEK	Week 10	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 9 Dec 2011	Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Heart	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
	Sat 10 Dec 2011	Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory	Westpac Stadium	5:00pm	3:00pm
	Sat 10 Dec 2011	Central Coast Mariners v Newcastle Jets	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 10 Dec 2011	Melb Victory v Adelaide United	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun 11 Dec 2011	Gold Coast United v Sydney FC	Skilled Park	4:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 08 RESULTS

Adelaide United	0	Wellington Phoenix	2
Newcastle Jets	0	(Paul Ifill 7', Tim Brown 59')	
Central Coast	3	Sydney FC	1
(Matt Simon 45', Daniel McBreen 81' (pen), Patrick Zwaanswijk 87')		(Bruno Cazarine 70')	
Melbourne Heart	1	Melbourne Victory	3
(Eli Babalj 78')		(Harry Kewell 3'(pen), Carlos Hernandez 22'(pen)/79')	
Brisbane Roar	4	Gold Coast United	2
(Besart Berisha 23'/45', Issey Nakajima-Farran 33'/41')		(Dylan Macallister 45'+2 (pen), Peter Jungschlager 47')	
Perth Glory	0		

TOP GOAL SCORERS

9 - Besart Berisha (Roar)

4 - Shane Smeltz (Glory), Nick Carle (SFC), Henrique (Roar), Carlos Hernandez (Victory)

3 - Jeremy Brock (Jets), Tim Brown (Phoenix), Mate Dugandzic (Heart), Ryan Griffiths (Jets)



Victory's Carlos Hernandez scored a brace in a thriller to move up the charts.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 8

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Matthew Nash – The 30 year old deputy goalkeeper had a good clean sheet at Hindmarsh Stadium which will apply pressure to Ben Kennedy for the number one jersey upon his return.

RCB: John McKain – McKain had a solid game as he helped Adelaide United to their first clean sheet since round two.

CB: Patrick Zwaanswijk – Another goal for the central defender earns him a third appearance in Goal! Weekly's team of the week.

LCB: Mohamed Adnan – Perth Glory allowed the Bahraini to have space to distribute the ball from the Roar defence which ultimately punished them in the first half as Brisbane were able to find the back of the net four times in 20 minutes.

CDM: Tim Brown – The New Zealand international hit a stunning volley from just under half way to double the Phoenix's lead against Sydney FC.

CDM: Billy Celeski – Celeski had his best performance in a Victory jersey since his unfortunate knee injury. His counter attacking runs allowed ten men Melbourne Victory to turn defence into attack which ultimately got them the three points.

LAM: Carlos Hernandez – The Costa Rican international put away a penalty before he rose above the Perth defence to clinch the winner for the Victory.

RAM: Thomas Broich – Broich had two assists in the Brisbane's 36th undefeated match.

RW: Paul Ifill – Ifill lead the Phoenix attack in his first start since returning from injury and was able to open the scoring against Sydney FC and found himself unlucky not to be on the score sheet again.

LW: Issey Nakajima-Farran – The A-Leagues first Canadian scored a double in Brisbane's record breaking game. It seems that Ange Postecoglou has found himself another class signing to add to his already strong squad.

ST: Archie Thompson – He may not have scored this week but Archie Thompson had another great performance which gave the Perth defence headaches as he won a penalty in the opening minute and then assisted in Carlos Hernandez's winner.

Star Man

Thomas Broic
Brisbane Roar



The former German youth international had another terrific performance in Brisbane's 36th straight undefeated match. Broich supplied Besart Berisha with a great cross for Brisbane's opener before a terrific long ball to Issey Nakajima-Farran to double Brisbane's lead. The 30 year old is now arguably the best footballer in the A-League.

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Brisbane Roar



4

Perth Glory



0

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 4
(Besart Berisha 23' 45', Issey Nakajima-Farran 33', 41')
Perth Glory 0
Saturday, 26 November 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Jarred Gillett
Crowd: 19,339

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic (19. Jack Hingert 76'), 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Murodocca (18. Luke Brattan 52'), 10. Henrique (21. James Meyer 67'), 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran, 16. Mohamed Adnan, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 30. MatT Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Matt Smith 59', Besart Berisha 78'
Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Daniel Vukovic, 2. Josh Mitchell, 3. Sebastian Van Den Brink, 4. Billy Mehmet, 7. Jacob Burns (C), 8. Adam Hughes, 9. Shane Smeltz, 15. Tommy Amplett (14. Steven McGarry 46'), 17. Todd Howarth, 19. Joshua Risdon, 25. Trent Mcclenahan (27. Andrezinho 46')

Substitutes Not Used: 18. Jesse Makarounas, 30. Lewis Italiano (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Jacob Burns 25', Shane Smeltz 82'
Red Cards: Nil

Roar smash 74 year old record!

By Jarrod Ellis

On a humid, wet Queensland evening Brisbane Roar ensured that their name would be enshrined in Australian sporting folklore as a 4-0 win over Perth Glory saw them set a new record for consecutive matches without defeat at 36.

First half braces from Besart Berisha and Issey Nakajima-Farran settled the result before the break and despite Perth Glory providing stiffer resistance in the second half the Roar never looked troubled.

Brisbane was missing Mitch Nichols, Kofi Danning and Matt Jurman, called into Aurelio Vidmar's Olyroos squad for Sunday's match against Uzbekistan. Perth had their own worries with fielding a full strength side, Liam Miller and Mile Sterjovski were added to the list of absentees during the week that also includes names like Steve Pantelidis and Travis Dodd.

In a week that was dominated by talk of Brisbane's potential record setting game it wasn't too surprising that the Roar appeared a little nervous and unsettled on the field, their usual smooth passing game absent during the opening stages of the match.

Henrique had the only early chance of the match; but a diving Josh Mitchell denied the diminutive winger a shot on goal inside the box, the ball instead ricocheting out for a corner in the sixth minute.

The opening twenty minutes were a disjointed affair, neither side were able to carve out a chance but with Brisbane dominating possession it was looking like ominous for the visitors.

That possession paid off in the 24th minute, Henrique and Matt Smith combined to free Thomas Broich, the Brisbane playmaker then skipping down the left hand side of the Perth penalty

area before playing a low cross in front of goal that Besart Berisha was only too happy to put into the net.

Brisbane struck again nine minutes later, a wonderful ball over the top from Broich picked out a well timed run from Issey Nakajima-Farran, the Candian international didn't wasted the opportunity, bringing the ball down before lifting a shot over Danny Vukovic.

Perth were finding it difficult to retain possession in the slippery conditions and their inability to hold onto the ball cost them as Brisbane were able to set up shop inside the Glory's half.

It was 3-0 in the 42nd minute as Nakajima-Farran and Ivan Franjic exchanged passes on the right of the Perth penalty area, a deflection on Franjic's return pass didn't interrupt the move and Nakajima-Farran beat Vukovic for the second time on the night.

Berisha then added his second just before half time. Henrique was the provider on this occasion, the Brazilian finding Berisha inside the Perth penalty area with a short pass before the striker sent a powerful shot into the roof of the Glory net.

Andrezinho and Steven McGarry were introduced by Ian Ferguson at the half, Perth's manager electing to make changes in an effort to get his team back into the match and prevent a similar fate that Adelaide suffered at the same ground only last month.

The break appeared to have settled some of the Glory's shredded nerves and in the 56th minute Perth won their first corner, Mohammed Adnan was forced to put the ball out after Shane Smeltz had a headed effort on the Brisbane goal but the visitors were unable to make anything of it.

Perth were looking much more comfortable in the second half, still giving up most of the ball to the home side but they were no longer prisoners in their own half, Andrezinho in particular

appeared to be giving Brisbane cause for concern.

Brisbane super sub James Meyer was introduced for Henrique in the 70th minute and he wasted no time getting involved, forcing a save from Vukovic with his first touch of the ball.

Niggling fouls were beginning to creep into the game in the later stages and before the match had drawn to a close cards had been handed out to both Besart Berisha and Shane Smeltz.

The dying moments of the match provided one of the competitors for miss of the season as the Berisha had an air swing, unmarked, inside the six yard box after a lifted through ball from Broich unlocked Perth's defence.

However that error didn't detract from the result and as the final whistle sounded the soaked supporters erupted and fireworks shot skyward.

Brisbane manager Ange Postecoglou was understandably proud of this team's achievement.

"It was great, sometimes when opportunities come along it doesn't always work but all forces come together today and it was a great night for the club," he said.

"Great crowd, the boys were fantastic and scored some quality goals and tonight's performance really epitomises the type of football club we want to be.

"Tonight the players got reward for all their hard work which is great to see."



Besart Berisha gets the show underway and the Roar are on the way to legendary status. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Glory's Adam Hughes and Roar's Thomas Broich play a bit of Simon Says. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Match Stats		
0	Saves	1
6	Attempts on target	0
9	Attempts off target	3
59%	Possession	41%
6	Corners	3
5	Offsides	1
6	Fouls committed	10



Double trouble: Brisbane Roar's Issey Nakajim-Farran and Besart Berisha provided the goals that sewed up the record before the first half was over. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Wellington Phoenix



2

Sydney FC



1

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 2
(Paul Ifill 10, Tim Brown 60)
Sydney FC 1
(Bruno Cazarine 71)
Westpac Stadium
Crowd: 6,308
Referee: Ryan Shephard

Wellington Phoenix: 20. Tony Warner, 2. Manny Muscat, 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Tim Brown, 7. Leo Bertos, 8. Paul Ifill (14. Mirjan Pavlovic '61), 9. Chris Greenacre, 12. Nick Ward, 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund, 22. Andrew Durante (c).

Sub not used: (gk) 1. Mark Paston, 11. Daniel Cortes and 24. Alex Smith.
Yellow cards: Andrew Durante 72, Manny Muscat 74.
Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy, 3. Jamie Coyne (12. Shannon Cole '76), 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Karol Kisel, 10. Nick Carle, 15. Terry McFlynn (c), 17. Terry Antonis (9.Bruno Cazarine '55), 19. Mark Bridge (18. Juho Makela '65), 21. Scott Jamieson.

Sub not used: 20. Ivan Necevski.
Yellow cards: Scott Jamieson 63.
Red cards: Nil

Ifill inspires Phoenix rising

By Joe Gallagher

Westpac Stadium was abuzz once again on Sunday as Wellington Phoenix recorded their second win of the season with a 2-1 win over Sydney FC.

Though the match winner eventually turned out to be a thunderbolt from Phoenix midfielder Tim Brown, it was a scoreline that flatters the Sky Blues, as the Phoenix dominated throughout. They were deservedly ahead on seven minutes. Tony Lochhead found a reinvigorated Paul Ifill who poked home past goalkeeper Liam Reddy to give Wellington the advantage.

It was the killer instinct that Phoenix fans have craved all season long and underlined the importance Ifill holds to the side. With him, they have been creative and dangerous, a far cry from the squads that have been plagued by tentativeness and stagnancy in his absence. Ifill might have scored another had it not been for a poor first touch after an excellent cross by Manny Muscat.

The first half was completely dominated by the home side. Brett Emerton and Nick Carle, the orchestrators of Sydney's early season form were kept quiet in midfield and they were restricted to just one chance in the entire first 45 minutes – a speculative effort from Carle himself which rolled wide of Tony Warner's goal.

Meanwhile, Ifill ought to have doubled (or even tripled) his tally with a number of golden chances throughout, most notably a volley from six yards which was instead fired over the top of Reddy's goal early into the second spell.

And while Sydney had begun to press for an equaliser, they looked vulnerable at the back. Leo Bertos and Lochhead caused havoc on the left flank, and the creativity of delivery from Muscat was encouraging. Nonetheless, the second goal still proved elusive, while the visitors were looking fragile in behind the back four.

Ironically, it was not in behind the defenders but rather from near halfway which provided the spark the home fans were



Wellington's Paul Ifill found his shooting boots and caused plenty of headaches for the visiting Sydneysiders.
Photo: PETER McDONALD

craving. An hour gone and Reddy's poor clearance eventually found its way to Brown, who spotted the stopper off his line and launched a screamer into the back of the net – the likes of which Wellington, or the A-League sees very, very few of.

Phoenix pressed and looked to build on their lead – Vince Lia was denied by an outstanding save from Reddy, as was Chris Greenacre. And though Wellington looked far more likely to extend their advantage, the match was given a grandstand finish when Bruno Cazarine scrambled in a disjointed movement to half the deficit and planted doubt in the minds of the Phoenix after 70 minutes.

And despite Sydney's efforts late in the match, Wellington looked the hungrier and the damage had been done by Ifill and Brown. The Sky Blues slump to their second straight defeat, while the hosts snap a five match winless streak and silence – for now, at least – their critics, who had become increasingly vocal in the past fortnight.

The win lifts Wellington into a playoffs spot, and drops Sydney into third, now nine points behind runaway leaders Brisbane Roar. For Wellington, they will approach a trip to Melbourne Heart next weekend with confidence, while for Viteslav Lavicka's men a visit by record-breaking champions Brisbane Roar

looms.

Ricki Herbert will take much encouragement from the showing of Ifill and replacement striker Mirjan Pavlovic, returning from a long injury layoff. However, the Phoenix looked far more vulnerable without the Barbados international, only emphasising the thinness of their squad and heaping more pressure on their new owners to make a move in the transfer window.

For Sydney FC's coach Lavicka, who had demanded tighter defending and more potency in attack, will certainly be deflated by his side's performance. Coming off the back of a disappointing loss last weekend, and with the daunting task

of a match against Brisbane coming up, this was a visit to Wellington that the Sky Blues would have been both desperate to and confident of picking up the three points. Instead, they were underwhelming and, at times, predictable.

It may not be the most memorable of results, but for Phoenix fans leaving the stadium it was a confidence boosting performance which will be remembered for another reason. Brown's goal will live long in the memory of the Yellow Fever and might just be the exclamation mark which kick starts Wellington's campaign.

And for Sydney, one of the most impressive squads in the A-League, it's back to the drawing board.



Phoenix's Chris Greenacre attempts to take on Scott Jamieson and Pascal Bosschaart. Photo: PETER McDONALD



Jamie Coyne slides in to thwart Leo Bertos. Photo: PETER McDONALD

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CC Mariners



3

Melbourne Heart

HEART



1

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 3 (Simon 45 + 1', McBreen 83' (Pen), Zwaanswijk 87')
Melbourne Heart 1 (Babalj 78')
 Referee: Gerard Parsons
 Crowd: 7,242 at Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson, 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 9. Bernie Ibini (12. Troy Hearfield 57'), 14. Michael Moglinchey, 18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 19. Matt Simon (10. Adriano Pellegrino 85'), 22. Mustafa Amini (2. Daniel McBreen 71')

Subs Not Used: 30. Nathan Denham (Gk)
 Yellow Cards: Zwaanswijk 27'
 Red Cards: None

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton (Gk), 2. Michael Marrone, 3. Brendan Hamill, 5. Fred (C), 6. Matthew Thompson (16. Aziz Behic 71'), 7. Rutger Worm (19. Eli Babalj 64'), 9. Maycon, 10. Wayne Srhoj (15. David Williams 57'), 13. Jonatan Germano, 18. Curtis Good, 25. Adrian Madaschi

Subs Not Used: 30. Sebastian Mattei (Gk)
 Yellow Cards: Srhoj 40'
 Red Cards: None



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By Adrian Deans

For some reason, it very frequently rains when the Mariners are at home. Graham Arnold could resolve the country's water shortages simply by sending his players on a tour of the inland – droughts would break wherever they turned up to play.

As usual, the heavens opened for several days before this home tie. It was sunny by kick-off, but the damage was done in terms of potential spectators making up their minds on whether to attend and the game was played in front of a small crowd of 7,242. The Mariners' football and position on the table deserve far better – especially with captain Alex Wilkinson making his 150th appearance.

With two teams coming off wins and playing fairly attractive football, this should have been a match to savour. Unfortunately however, it will be remembered for the wrong reasons – mainly the performance of referee Parsons who with one decision and one non-decision tore the Heart out of an even game.

Mind you, some better vigilance by Parsons or his assistant could have seen the game changed in the fifth minute. Wayne Srhoj quite blatantly elbowed Rostyn Griffiths in the jaw and players have been sent off for less – even in Grand Finals (just ask Cristiano).

The first twenty minutes or so were dull and even on a soft pitch. Both teams were content to keep possession and establish their patterns and no real opportunities were carved out until the 22nd minute when Germano's superb ball in behind set up Maycon who inexplicably tried to square for Matt Thompson when the goal was gaping. Thompson slipped and the Mariners recovered.

Then Parsons incurred the wrath of the crowd when he gave no card for a Curtis Good rugby tackle on Matt Simon, but a minute later gave Patrick Zwaanswijk a card for a shirt pull.

The Mariners' best chance in normal time came when Mustafa Amini, making his first start for the year, got in behind and set up Pedj Bojic who managed only an air swing from six metres, but the ball still fell for John Hutchinson whose shot cannoned off the heel of Bernie Ibini and out for a goal kick.

The rest of the half was played out in more-or-less midfield stalemate but the game took a huge turn in injury time when the Mariners scored from a corner (which should have been a goal kick). The big-screen replay clearly showed Matt Simon impeding Clint Bolton, then to add injury to insult, Simon pounced on the loose ball and thrashed it home from a metre out.

Neither team deserved a goal on the balance of play, but the game needed a goal.

In the second half, I stood with the small knot of Heart fans who'd driven up in convoy for the game but conversation was frequently interrupted by their shouts of excitement as the Heart pressed for an equaliser. I was particularly interested to learn which particular woodwork the Heart supporters had emerged from in a city which had only had one team for the first five seasons. Daniel from North Melbourne explained to me the sociological difference between Heart supporters and Victory supporters and where the future supporters will come from.

The second half saw the game open up



Mariner Matt Simon (on ground) opens the scoring with an acrobatic effort that wasn't without its share of controversy after Heart keeper Clint Bolton appeared to be interfered with in the lead play. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

with some much better football and a lot more chances. A brilliant shot from Maycon brought the best out of Pasfield (deputising for Mat Ryan) in the 72nd minute, then shortly afterwards the Heart, inspired by attacking substitutions (Behic, Williams and Babalj) restored parity when a free kick was nodded home by Babalj. Justin Pasfield possibly should have come for the cross but nearly created a name for himself with a magnificent effort to almost save the header from point blank.

Then came the real controversy. Germano's shouldered control was interpreted as a handball – giving the Mariners a penalty minutes after the Heart's excellent football had brought them level and made them look the likelier to contrive a winner. McBreen converted then, shortly after, the Mariners scored their only uncontroversial goal to make the game safe. After a thunderous shot from Josh Rose was turned away by a flying Clint Bolton, Patrick Zwaanswijk met the resultant corner with a towering header to finally kill off the Heart.

I anticipated a tight game and I was right, but in the end that tightness was not reflected on the scoreboard. A 3 – 1 victory will look reasonably comfortable in the history books, but those who watched will know it was a win handed to the Mariners on a silver platter.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Clean-sheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. ebook also available at www.mrclean-sheets.com

Match Stats		
1	Saves	2
7	Attempts on target	2
2	Attempts off target	3
51%	Possession	49%
3	Corners	4
1	Offsides	1
9	Fouls committed	12



Heart keeper Clint Bolton dives the right way but Daniel McBreen's spot kick has just too much purchase on it to make it 2-1. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

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Adelaide United

0

Newcastle Jets

0

Match Details

Adelaide United FC 0
Newcastle Jets 0
Referee: Matthew Gillett
Crowd: 8,403 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United line-up: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk), 3.Nigel Boogaard, 4.Jon McKain (c), 7.Zenon Caravella (18. Fabian Barbiero 83'), 10.Dario Vidosic (13.Ricardo Da Silva 53'), 11.Bruce Djite, 14.Cameron Watson, 16.Spase Dilevski (2.Osama Malik 68'), 17.Iain Ramsay, 21.Francisco Uusucar, 22.Milan Susak

Substitutes not used: 39.Nick Munro (gk)
Yellow Cards: Usucar 30', Boogaard 33'/65', Caravella 59', Djite 90'
Red Cards: Boogaard 65'

Newcastle Jets line-up: 19.Matthew Nash (gk), 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5.Tiago Calvano, 7.Kasey Wehrman, 8.Jeremy Brockie (25.Jacob Pepper 87'), 10.Ruben Zadkovich, 11.Tarek Elrich, 12.Jobie Wheelhouse (c), 13.Sung-Hwan Byun, 23.Ryan Griffiths, 24.Francis Jeffers (14.Labinot Haliti 74')

Substitutes not used: 2.Taylor Regan, 30.Jack Duncan (gk)
Yellow Cards: Topor-Stanley 56', Griffiths 70', Calvano 90+1'
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide and Jets in stalemate

By Luca Cetta

Adelaide United and Newcastle Jets played out a dour 0-0 draw at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night to leave both sides locked in the mid-table logjam.

The hosts played out the final 30 minutes of the match in front of the 8400 fans in attendance with just ten men when Nigel Boogaard was sent off for a second bookable offence. Having committed a foul when on a yellow card, the defender directed words towards the referee, who had no hesitation in brandishing another yellow card and subsequent red.

The result means the Jets have snapped a seven game losing streak away from Ausgrid Stadium. They move to ten points, with Adelaide a further point back after eight matches.

Both sides were looking to return to the winners list after disappointing results, Adelaide surrendering a late lead to Wellington in New Zealand last week, while Newcastle took the lead against Brisbane Roar but ultimately succumbed to a 2-1 defeat against the champions.

Newcastle was the stronger side in the first half, with Jeremy Brockie the closest to opening the scoring, while after half-time Adelaide's Iain Ramsay saw his effort cleared off the line.

Adelaide United Coach Rini Coolen said it took a while for his side to get going and they were set back by the sending off.



Newcastle Jet Rostyn Griffiths closes in on Adelaide United's Milan Susak.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

"We prefer to play better football than we did today. We didn't play well, that's for sure," Coolen noted.

"I think the second half we came out a little bit better, we controlled the game a little bit more, not fantastic, but good enough to be back in the game, and then there's the red card for Boogaard and that's hard.

"What you need then is a great effort from the boys and even with ten players, we created a few more chances than our opponent, but we definitely do not deserve more

than a draw. It was not a fantastic game from either team, but in the end you're happy with a point if you have to play 30 minutes with ten players."

Jets midfielder Kasey Wehrman lamented the fact his side did not take advantage of the extra player.

"We didn't ask enough questions when they went down the ten men, we're happy the way we played but obviously three points would have been nice."

Brockie curled an early attempt over Eugene Galekovic's net af-

ter a pass from Ryan Griffiths and down the other end Francisco Usucar found Bruce Djite bearing down on goal but as the striker looked to be in a dangerous position Sung-Hwan Byun was in perfect position to block the danger.

Galekovic was forced to make a stop from Brockie as Newcastle dominated the encounter, but failed to find the precision required in the final third.

Just five minutes into the second period, Djite slipped through a delightful through ball to the onrushing

Ramsay, whose momentum took him around goalkeeper Matthew Nash, but the angle just proved too difficult and salvaging the situation on the line was Tarek Elrich.

Dario Vidosic was forced from the field shortly after with a back injury, giving Ricardo Da Silva a chance to impress in his home debut.

Francis Jeffers found space to hit a volley, but his effort sailed harmlessly wide, a shot indicative of the finishing all evening.

Boogaard's needless red card meant Adelaide had to sure up its defence for the remainder of the contest, although they did have the ball in the back of the net in the dying moments. Substitute Fabian Barbiero slotted home but was in a clear offside position as the ball came through to him off of Ramsay.

The Jets had a shout for a penalty turned down as Adelaide Captain John McKain tangled with the black and whites Labinot Haliti in the 86th minute but the referee did not agree as the match finished scoreless.

Match Stats		
1	Saves	0
2	Attempts on target	3
5	Attempts off target	9
42%	Possession	58%
5	Corners	3
3	Offsides	0
14	Fouls committed	12



Iain Ramsey races in towards goal and eludes the advances of Matthew Nash.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Adelaide United's Osama Malik hurdles over a desperate Jobie Wheelhouse.
Photo: ADAM BUTLER

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Friday 2nd December 2011

Melbourne Victory

Gold Coast United

Match Details

MELBOURNE VICTORY 3 (Kewell [pen] 3', Hernandez [pen] 23', 79')
GOLD COAST UNITED 2 (Macallister [pen] 45+4', Jungschlager 48')
Venue: AAMI Park
Crowd: 16, 522
Referee: Chris Griffiths-Jones

Melbourne Victory: 21.Ante Covic [gk], 3.Fabio (15.Tom Pondeljak 60'), 6.Leigh Broxham, 10.Archie Thompson, 11.Marco Rojas (8.Grant Brebner 72'), 12.Rodrigo Vargas, 13.Diogo Ferreira, 14.Billy Celeski, 16.Carlos Hernandez, 22.Harry Kewell (19.Isaka Cernak 60'), 23.Adrian Leijer (c).

Unused subs: 20.Lawrence Thomas [gk].
Yellow cards: Broxham 32', Cernak 62', Celeski 81'.
Red cards: Vargas 33'.

Gold Coast United: 1.Glen Moss [gk], 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 5.Kristian Rees, 6.Paul Beekmans (17.Chris Harold 80'), 7.Golgol Mebrahtu, 14.Ben Halloran, 15.Adama Traore (13.Ante Rozic 83'), 16.Maceo Rigters, 22.Peter Jungschlager, 24.Jonas Salley, 29.Mitch Bevan (12.Dylan Macallister 27').

Unused subs: 20.Jerrad Tyson [gk].
Yellow cards: Beekmans 3', Salley 23', Traore 30', Rees 76', Rigters 86'.
Red cards: None.

Hernandez rescues Victory in epic

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Victory has defeated Gold Coast United 3-2 in a thrilling contest at AAMI Park on Sunday to win their first home game of the season.

Victory went into the encounter and made three changes after their draw with Perth. Matthew Kemp, Tommy Pondeljak and Danny Allsopp drop out for Harry Kewell, Diogo Ferreira and Marco Rojas. Gold Coast made two changes with Josh Brillante and Dylan Macallister making way for new signing Jonas Salley and Ben Halloran.

Melbourne Victory pushed into the box inside the first minute and Archie Thompson was pulled down by Paul Beekmans. Kewell stepped up and buried the penalty into the side netting. It was Kewell's first goal for Victory.

On 14 minutes Carlos Hernandez whipped in a wide free-kick but Glen Moss was there to make a slow save at the near post. Three minutes later Hernandez again shot at Moss but his shot was shanked wide.

On 20 minutes Jonas Salley created the first chance for the visitors. He hit the post with a first time shot after Rodrigo Vargas cleared Mitch Bevan's free-kick. Two minutes later and Victory had another penalty after Marco Rojas was fouled by Salley. Hernandez stepped up this time and although Moss chose the right way it was 2-0.

On 33 minutes Victory was down to ten-men when Rodrigo Vargas was sent off for a dangerous challenge on Golgol Mebrahtu. Six minutes later Hernandez's brilliant long ball was taken by Thompson and the Victory forward's attempted chip was saved brilliantly by the fingertips by Glen Moss.

On 41 minutes Victory was on the counter with Thompson but as he crosses to Kewell, Kewell couldn't get a shot away. Kewell passed off to Rojas but Moss read it well and intercepted. One minute later Gold Coast was straight

Match Stats		
1	Saves	1
6	Attempts on target	6
9	Attempts off target	12
50%	Possession	50%
2	Corners	7
2	Offsides	2
20	Fouls committed	15



Carlos Hernadez comes to the rescue and heads home a dramatic winner for a 10-man Victory. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

up the other end but Maceo Rigters strike was smashed into Dylan Macallister. As the first-half went into stoppage time Mebrahtu's free-kick was headed over by Salley.

Immediately the visitors put the pressure back on with Mebrahtu being fouled by Diogo Ferriera. First-half substitute Dylan Macallister slotted it home even though Covic chose the right side. 2-1 at half-time.

Three minutes into the second-half Thompson put a header over after a Hernandez free-kick.

Gold Coast was on the counter again with Ben Halloran who got past Fabio who fell over and crossed low to an unmarked Peter Jungschlager who equalised. Harry Kewell then volleyed an ambitious effort into the side netting on 54 minutes. Kewell was later substituted on 60 minutes.

On 64 minutes Rigters was too strong for Ferreira then shot on the turn. But Covic was down quickly to save. Rigters then tested Covic with a powerful strike but it travelled fast and wide one minute later.

On 75 minutes Victory had a chance to snatch it on the counter with Thompson who played in Celeski. Celeski's strike was then saved by Moss' foot and flicked onto the woodwork.

Gold Coast started to lose their shape and Victory started to put the pressure on. On 79 minutes Thompson was played through by Hernandez and as Moss pushed him wide Thompson chipped to the far post where Hernandez out jumped the Gold Coast defender to make it 3-2.

In Stoppage time Gold Coast had a

chance to equalise as Dylan Macallister's header was flicked on by Kristian Rees onto the base of the post.

Immediately up the other end Hernandez found Thompson whose strike hit the post. Thompson's follow-up then was blocked by Macallister who tracked back.

Melbourne Victory moves to third on the table with Gold Coast staying at the foot of the table. Victory travel to Newcastle next on Saturday with Gold Coast travelling to Perth to play the Glory on Saturday night.



Rodrigo Vargas sees red and the Victory are forced to play for almost an hour with ten men. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Harry Kewell converts the early penalty as Victory burst out of the blocks. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



The fans made their feelings heard and the Victory responded with a fighting performance. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Archie Thompson was in scintillating form once again, going agonisingly close on a couple of occasions. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Adelaide Utd Line Up

- 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk)
- 2.Osama Malik
- 4.Jon McKain (c)
- 5.Daniel Mullen
- 7.Zenon Caravella
- 8.Evgeniy Levchenko
- 9.Sergio van Dijk
- 11.Bruce Djite
- 13.Ricardo Da Silva
- 14.Cameron Watson
- 16.Spase Dilevski
- 17.Iain Ramsay
- 18.Fabian Barbiero
- 20.Mark Birighitti (gk)
- 21.Francisco Usucar
- 22.Milan Susak

In: Daniel Mullen (returns from international duty), Evgeniy Levchenko (returns from injury), Sergio van Dijk (returns from injury), Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk) (returns from international duty)

Out: Nigel Boogaard (suspended – 1 match), Dario Vidosic (back – indefinite), Nick Munro (gk) (Youth Team)

Unavailable: Cassio (ankle – indefinite)

Adelaide United v CC Mariners

Fri 2 Dec Hindmarsh Stdm 8:00pm

Reds on high alert for Mariners

Radio broadcaster: 891 ABC Adelaide / Coast FM (Gosford) 96.3

Odds: AUFC 2.85
Draw 3.35 Mariners 2.45

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 19): Adelaide United wins 6, Central Coast Mariners wins 7 (6 draws)

one and a topic for much discussion is Casio's calf-tear injury, an unusual one we are told at that, with the pocket rocket leaving to go back home choosing to have more faith in his doctors back in Brazil rather than the medical team within the club itself. But as he points out if it means him returning to the side earlier than predicted, then let the recovery process begin.

And for Coolen, the Dario Vidosic joker card played on him is the biggest setback, the back injury to their most consistent player and playmaker proving to be challenging for the Coach. Initially thought as a muscle related problem by Vidosic himself, bone scans confirmed by Adelaide United's Doctor James Ilic showed that Vidosic has an undisplaced fracture of upper lumbar process that was sustained in the

Wellington Phoenix match. The club has in no uncertain terms stressed that it is not an injury that would be season ending, rather that the young star could be back as early as three weeks. Vidosic himself however, maintains he is optimistic but cautious at the same time about predicting a return date to the lineup, even resorting to Twitter to say how he felt which in turn got him into a spot of bother with the club.

The Mariners will be without Michael Baird after being released from the club in order to join Malaysian Super League side Sabah FA. Skipper Alex Wilkinson coming off his recent 150th Hyundai A-League appearance would be hoping for the same team spirit, character and player dedication that got them through the game against Melbourne Heart to be displayed

again this week away from home. For

The Reds having Nigel Boogaard ineligible serving suspension for his red card from last week means less strength at the back, adding to that Sergio van Dijk and Evgeniy Levchenko still needing to prove their fitness during the squad's final training session on Thursday, it will be a night where 'all hands on deck' will be the order for those that do take to the field.

Adelaide fans would be hoping to see nothing less than all three points taken in a competitive performance from their boys, otherwise we may see some requests for 'plank walking' to come in the future.

Kiss of Death
Adelaide 1-1 Mariners



Mariners Line Up

- 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
- 2. Daniel McBreen
- 3. Joshua Rose
- 4. Pedj Bojic
- 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
- 7. John Hutchinson
- 8. Rostyn Griffiths
- 9. Bernie Ibini
- 11. Oliver Bozanic
- 12. Troy Hearfield
- 14. Michael McGlinchey
- 18. Alex Wilkinson
- 19. Matt Simon
- 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
- 22. Mustafa Amini

In: 1. Mathew Ryan (Returns from Qantas Australian Under 23 duty), 11. Oliver Bozanic (Returns from Qantas Australian Under 23 duty)

Out: 10. Adriano Pellegrino (Omitted), 30. Nathan Denham (Omitted)

Unavailable: 13. Stuart Musialik (Calf – 1 week)



Jets Line Up

- 1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
- 2. Taylor Regan
- 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- 5. Tiago Calvano
- 6. Ben Kantarovski
- 7. Kasey Wehrman
- 8. Jeremy Brockie
- 9. Michael Bridge
- 10. Ruben Zadkovich
- 11. Tarek Elrich
- 12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
- 13. Sung-Hwan Byun
- 14. Labinot Haliti
- 17. James Virgili
- 19. Matthew Nas
- 22. Ali Abbas
- 23. Ryan Griffiths
- 24. Francis Jeffers
- 25. Jacob Pepper, 30. Jack Duncan
- *four to be omitted*

In: Kantarovski, Bridges, Virgili, Abbas

Out: Kennedy (NYL)

Unavailable: Nil

Newcastle Jets v Melbourne Victory

Sat 3 Dec Ausgrid Stadium 7:45pm

By Shaun Dyas

It is the match the whole of the Hunter region has been looking toward. Since word first surfaced that Socceroo Harry Kewell was returning to play in the A-League, Hunter football fans scoured the draw to find when their side will be facing the Victory.

That day will finally dawn on Saturday as Harry Kewell and the Melbourne Victory travel to Newcastle to play the Jets at Ausgrid Stadium.

Jets officials are expecting a bumper crowd and the match is of vital importance for both sides. The Jets are coming off an encouraging point away from home against Adelaide, their first on the road this season.

The new game plan that has been put in place by Gary Van Egmond has started to reap benefits. The high intensity, pressing game that Newcastle employ is forcing the opposition into error and creating goal scoring opportunities. Newcastle dominated for large parts against Adelaide and could be considered unfortunate not to take the three points.

The visitors are arriving after a confidence boosting victory over Gold Coast United in which they battled with 10 men for 50 minutes. Carlos Hernandez pounced late on for an unlikely match winner which fired the Victory into 3rd place on the ladder and probably saved the job of under fire man-

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 18): Newcastle Jets wins 8, Melbourne Victory wins 6 (4 draws)

Jets set for Victory

Odds: Jets 2.40 Draw 3.35 Victory 3.00

Radio broadcaster: 1233 ABC Newcastle/ 774 ABC Melbourne/ 1116 SEN Melbourne Melbourne

ager Mehmet Durakovic.

The Victory will need to be on their toes against the home side. The Jets seem to be a totally different side at Ausgrid Stadium. Only the record breaking Brisbane Roar has beaten them at home this season and that was in a match the home side controlled for large periods.

The twin threat of Jeremy Brockie and Ryan Griffiths will need to be paid close attention by the Victory defence, minus the suspended Vargas. The two wide men have combined to score all but one of the goals the Jets have managed this season.

The energy and verve of Ruben Zadkovich has been a vital part of the Jets campaign to date. His constant harassment of the opposition when they are in possession has led to countless opportunities for the Jets.

He will be vitally important against the start studded midfield of the Victory and this is where the match will be decided. If the likes of Hernandez and Kewell can supply enough ammunition to Archie Thompson then the Victory will be well on the path to winning.

But if Zadkovich and his team mates control the midfield battle then the Jets have more than enough weapons to

inflict damage on their opponents. This will only be increased as the major focus at training this week for the Jets has been taking their chances in the final third.

One punter feels the Jets are certain- ties and has outlaid \$9000 at \$2.55 on a home win. I feel that come 10pm AEDT on Saturday night he will be a happy man as the home side seem to have too many options for a Victory side lacking balance at the moment.

Kiss of Death
Jets 2-0 Victory



Victory Line Up

- 3. Fabio
- 4. Petar Franjic
- 6. Leigh Broxham
- 7. Matthew Kemp
- 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
- 10. Archie Thompson
- 11. Marco Rojas
- 13. Diogo Ferreira
- 14. Billy Celeski
- 15. Tom Pondeljak
- 16. Carlos Hernandez
- 17. Jimmy Jeggo
- 18. Danny Allsopp
- 19. Isaka Cernak
- 20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
- 21. Ante Covic
- 22. Harry Kewell
- 23. Adrian Leijer (c)
- ***four to be omitted**

In: 7. Matthew Kemp (returns from injury)

Out: 12. Rodrigo Vargas (suspended)

Unavailable: 1. Tando Velaphi (stress fracture), 2. Matthew Foschini (suspended)

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Glory Line Up

1.Danny VUKOVIC (gk)
2.Josh MITCHELL
3.Bas van den BRINK
4.Billy MEHMET
5.Steve PANTELIDIS
7.Jacob BURNS (c)
8.Adam HUGHES
9.Shane SMELTZ
10.Liam MILLER
14.Steven McGARRY
15.Tommy AMPHLETT
17.Todd HOWARTH
18. Jesse MAKAROUNAS
19.Josh RISDON
21.Mile STERJOVSKI
25. Trent McCLENAHAN
27.ANDREZINHO
30. Lewis ITALIANO (gk)
three to be omitted

In: 5.Steve PANTELIDIS (returns from injury), 10.Liam MILLER (returns from suspension), 18.Jesse MAKAROUNAS (promoted), 21.Mile STERJOVSKI
Out:
Unavailable: 6.Chris COYNE (Achilles – 3 months), 11.Victor SIKORA (hip – long term injury list), 12.Scott NEVILLE (knee), 13.Travis DODD (hamstring- 2 weeks), 16.Evan BERGER (hamstring – 5-weeks), 20.Neil YOUNG (abdominal)

Perth Glory v Gold Coast United

Sat 3 Dec nib Stadium 10:00pm

By Jacob Kagi

Both Perth Glory and Gold Coast United will be desperate to end worrying slides when the two teams meet at nib Stadium on Saturday.

Pressure has built on the Glory as they've taken just one point from their past five games, while United have lost four straight and are anchored to the bottom of the ladder.

Perth comes into the game on the back of a 4-0 humiliation at the hands of league leaders Brisbane and knows it needs to improve quickly to keep pace with the top sides.

The club's poor run has put coach Ian Ferguson under significant pressure and while Glory owner Tony Sage has backed the former Rangers player for the time being, failure to beat United would put his position in serious doubt.

But after the heavy defeat to Brisbane,

Ferguson again insisted there was no need for his side to panic yet.

"It's one game in eight. It was a bad day at the office and it's not the first time Brisbane has done that to teams in the A-League," Ferguson said.

"We'll move on. We'll sit down, we'll regroup and look forward to getting Gold Coast in Perth.

"It's a lesson that we've got to take on board. That's the benchmark, that's what we've got to strive to."

In a big blow for Saturday's home

Glory prepares for golden battle

Odds: Glory 1.93
Draw 3.40 GCU 4.35

side, central defender Chris Coyne was ruled out for at least three months during the week with an Achilles problem, joining a long list of back four injuries which includes Scott Neville (knee), Steve Pantelidis (heel) and Evan Berger (hamstring).

But the Glory are expected to welcome back Liam Miller from suspension and Mile Sterjovski is also likely to be available after missing the Roar clash to be with his pregnant wife. Both should provide much-needed boosts for an attack which has managed the fewest goals and total shots in the league this season.



Radio broadcaster:
SportFM 91.3

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 6): Perth Glory wins 0, Gold Coast United wins 4 (2 draws)

Remarkably, Gold Coast have never lost to Perth and will be desperate for that run to continue.

United enter the match on the back of a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Melbourne Victory, which captain Michael Thwaite said would make them especially keen to take the three points against the Glory.

"It's up to us as players to dig deep and get ourselves out of this rut; it's as simple as that," he said.

"It's incredibly frustrating and has been for eight weeks or so. Every game seems to turn against us and obviously copping a penalty forty sec-

onds in didn't help.

"But all we can do is regroup and focus on our next game."

The Queensland side will welcome back James Brown from Olyroos duty for the clash and he should provide a spark in attack, having scored three goals already this season.

But Miron Bleiberg's outfit will also face a tough challenge at the back in Glory striker Shane Smeltz, who will be looking to show his old side what they're missing.

**Kiss of Death
Glory 2-1 Gold Coast**



Gold Coast Line Up

1.Glen Moss [gk]
3.Michael Thwaite (c)
4.Zac Anderson
5.Kristian Rees
6.Paul Beekmans
7.Golgol Mebrahtu
12.Dylan Macallister
13.Ante Rozic
14.Ben Halloran
15.Adama Traore
16.Maceo Rigters
17.Chris Harold
18.James Brown
20.Jerrad Tyson [gk]
21.Daniel Severino
22.Peter Jungschlager
23.Dylan McGowan
24.Jonas Salley
29.Mitch Bevan.
four to be omitted

In: 18.James Brown, 23.Dylan McGowan (return from international duty), 21.Daniel Severino (promoted), 4.Zac Anderson (promoted).
Out: None.

Unavailable: 9.Joel Porter (calf – 3 weeks), 19.Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury – 6 weeks).



Heart Line Up

1.Clint Bolton (gk)
2.Michael Marrone
3.Brendan Hamill
5.Fred
6.Matt Thompson
7.Rutger Worm
8.Kristian Sarkies
9.Maycon
11.Alex Terra
13.Jonatan Germano
15.David Williams
16.Aziz Behich
17.Jason Hoffman
18.Curtis Good
19.Eli Babalj
23.Mate Dugandzic
25.Adrian Madaschi
30.Sebastian Mattei (gk)

In: Mate Dugandzic (returns from international duty), Jason Hoffman (returns from international duty), Alex Terra (returns from injury)

Out: Wayne Srhoj (suspended)

Unavailable: Nick Kalmar (back – four weeks), Kliment Taseski (fractured foot – long term), Kamal Ibrahim (ankle – two weeks), Wayne Srhoj (suspension – 1 week)

Melb Heart v Wellington Phoenix

Sun 4 Dec Latrobe Cplx, Morwell 3:00pm

By John Clark

A-League football travels to La-Trobe City Stadium in Morwell for the first time this weekend when the Melbourne Heart 'hosts' the Wellington Phoenix as part of 'Regional round'.

The ground did host a practice match last season between the Jets and the Heart with Newcastle taking the match 2-1 in front of 3000 boisterous locals. Last weekend the Hearts five game unbeaten streak came to an end at the hands of the Central Coast. In a stale first half, Melbourne were once again on the wrong end of a linesman's decision and from the ensuing corner Matt Simon was able to turn the ball home on the stroke of halftime.

Regardless of the decision they will be disappointed they were unable to clear the ball so close to half time. In the second half Jon Van't Schip introduced Eli Babalj and the big central striker drew the Heart level with a powerful header. Unfortunately they couldn't hold on to what would have been a valuable point with a controversial handball gifting back the lead to the Mariners, before Patrick Zwaanswijk headed home from yet another set piece something that the Heart would surely have worked hard at



All matches (played 3): Melbourne Heart wins 1, Wellington Phoenix wins 1 (1 draw)

Heart and Phoenix do battle in Morwell

Odds: Heart 2.05 Draw 3.40 Phoenix 3.80

Radio broadcaster:
774 ABC Melbourne/
1116 SEN Melbourne
/ The Radio Network
Wellington 1035AM

rectifying this week. The Phoenix got back on the winners list last week thanks mainly to the return of their star player, Paul Ifill.

Wellington are a completely different proposition when Ifill is in the starting line up, as not only is he a fine performer himself he also lifts the rest of the side. His 7th minute opener last weekend set the standard early against Sydney, before Tim Brown scored the goal of the season thus far when his dipping 45 meter volley found the back of the net. Brown is also vitally important to Rikki Herbert's side with his late

runs into the box always a nuisance for opposition defenses. The Heart will retain Olyroos Mate Dugandzic and Jason Hoffman for this clash and both players will be keen to make an immediate impact after a disappointing qualifying campaign for the Olyroos.

These sides met three times in the Heart's debut season with the honors being shared at one win a piece and also an entertaining 2-2 draw. The Phoenix have traditionally been a side who has struggled away from home, but their last away trip against Brisbane was

a fantastic performance with the Phoenix defending grimly and escaping Suncorp with a point. Wellingtons recent form has been really encouraging after a barren spell of results which saw them heading towards the bottom of the table, however I think the Heart has shown in the last 6 weeks that they are finals bound and they should come away with the result in front of a big home crowd.

**Kiss of Death
Heart 2-1 Phoenix**



Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
6. Tim Brown
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Chris Greenacre
11. Daniel
12. Nicky Ward
14. Mirjan Pavlovic
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Tony Warner (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C).

In: Dani Sanchez (returns from injury)

Out: Alex Smith (foot injury)

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Jimmy Downey (knee injury – 2 to 3 weeks), Alex Smith (foot injury – 1 week).

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SYDNEY
FC

Sydney FC Line Up

1. Liam Reddy
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Jamie Coyne
4. Pascal Bosschaart
5. Michael Beauchamp
7. Brett Emerton
8. Karol Kisel
9. Bruno Cazarine
10. Nick Carle
11. Dimi Petratos
12. Shannon Cole
15. Terry McFlynn (c)
17. Terry Antonis
18. Juho Makela
19. Mark Bridge
20. Ivan Necevski
23. Rhyan Grant (two to be omitted).

Ins: Dimi Petratos (returns from international duty), Sebastian Ryall (returns from international duty), Rhyan Grant (returns from international duty)

Outs: Scott Jamieson (suspended), Hirofumi Moriyasu.

Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar

Sun 4 Dec Sydney Football Stdm 5pm

By Mike Salter

On recent form, Saturday's encounter between Sydney FC and competition leaders Brisbane Roar at WIN Stadium looks like a mismatch. The Roar, after all, are flying as high as ever after breaking a long-standing domestic record with their confident 4-0 win over Perth Glory last weekend, while Sydney have suffered two successive losses, their 2-1 defeat in New Zealand last Sunday arising from two painful sucker-punch goals.

Yet there is some cause for hope for Sydney fans. Bruno Cazarine, who will probably start against Brisbane in the likely absence of the injured Mark Bridge, has looked dangerous in recent weeks; Sydney's other foreign striker, the blond Finn Juho Makela, has recovered from his injury and will be looking to recover the ebullient form of late 2010/11, when he proved a worthwhile addition to Vitezslav Lavicka's squad.

However, if Sydney's strikers are in promising form, Brisbane's frontmen are looking truly dominant. Albanian Besart Berisha has struck the A-League like a

SFC to face rampant Roar

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 21): Sydney FC wins 5, Brisbane Roar wins 8 (8 draws)



Odds:
SFC 4.35 Draw 3.45
Roar 1.86

thunderclap, racing to a tally of nine goals for the season already; wide man Issey Nakajima-Farran looks to be approaching his best form as well, if a fine solo effort against Perth is any guide.

Brisbane face no special personnel problems leading into the game. Sydney's coaching staff will be sweating on the fitness of Bridge, while there will be another enforced change at left-back, with Scott Jamieson suspended for the weekend's game; Shannon Cole,

who has yet to force his way into the first team this season, is likely to be Jamieson's replacement.

The teams met in October at the Sydney Football Stadium, and on that occasion Lavicka's team were simply outclassed by Ange Postecoglou's slick, well-drilled side. Since then Brisbane have provided more of the same while Sydney's form has been mercurial; will Brisbane be tempted to relax a little after reaching the magical 36 unbeaten games, or will it

be another imperious display from the team that has shown the rest of the league the way forward?

The match is the first of two "home from home" games for Sydney FC, who follow up their trip to Kogarah with a match against Perth in distant Campbelltown on Wednesday evening.

Kiss of Death
SFC 2-2 Roar



Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theoklitos (GK)
 2. Matt Smith (Capt.)
 3. Shane Stefanutto
 4. Matt Jurman
 5. Ivan Franjic
 6. Erik Paarlatlu
 7. Besart Berisha
 8. Massimo Murodcca
 9. Kofi Danning
 10. Henrique
 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
 16. Mohamed Adnan
 17. Mitch Nichols
 18. Luke Brattan
 19. Jack Hingert
 21. James Meyer
 22. Thomas Broich
 30. Matt Acton (GK).
- *three to be omitted*

In: 9. Kofi Danning (Returns from international duty), 4. Matt Jurman (Returns from international duty), 17. Mitch Nichols (Returns from international duty)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: N/A



Rewind



Robert Di Fabio

Another scintillating week has passed in the A-League, with Australian football notably etching its way into the Australian sporting record books. The Brisbane Roar's remarkable run of undefeated games has gained worldwide exposure, and adds another tale to the short, but commendable history throughout Australia's elite football competition. While only nine points separates second from last on the table, the A-League is certainly heating up, as we enter the summer period of the competition.

Brisbane Roar riding on cloud nine:

We may repeat ourselves on a frequent basis; however this Brisbane Roar outfit is certainly one to be admired. Unless you've been sleeping under a rock for the past week, or simply couldn't care less about football, Brisbane Roar have surpassed Easter Suburbs' (now Sydney Roosters) long-standing 74-year-old record for the most consecutive unbeaten games in top flight Australian sport – the rugby league club's incredible streak of 35 games was manufactured from 1936-37.

Brisbane's demolition of Perth Glory last weekend, where it put four past the visitors in the opening period, ensured that Ange Postecoglou's men would eradicate the former record, and rewrite the history

books, in spectacular fashion.

Devoid of defeat for a 36-game period is truly a remarkable feat in any sport, regardless of the inequality in budgets between the powerhouse clubs, and the cellar-dwellers. Conversely, when considering the various constraints Brisbane has had to work under – a limited budget amid the salary cap, reduced squad sizes and exempt of marquee signings – their accomplishment is rather exceptional. Unlike many competitions around the globe, the Roar didn't encompass advantages from a fiscal perspective to facilitate their status within Australian football.

Records akin to Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten streak will forever be a memory within football folklore, although when we consider the differing environments it was set, in contrast to Brisbane's, then the Australian team's is a superior record in that regard.

Recently, in some quarters of the football community, Brisbane have been dubbed as "Roarcelona" – a palpable comparison with Spanish champions Barcelona and its style of play. The football implemented under Postecoglou has helped raise the standard of Australian football, and importantly strive for greater heights within the domestic game. The ethos adopted has been a delight to witness, and undoubtedly is raising the tactical awareness around the competition.

The Roar's execution of football has justly been a breath of fresh air for the A-League, however one question still remains - when will this glittering undefeated streak be brought to an end?

Have Melbourne Victory turned the corner?

A chaotic week of off-field drama for Australia's biggest football club saw Director of Football Francis Awartite shown his



Thank you linesmen, thank you ballboys...The all-conquering Eastern Suburbs Rugby League side from 1937 makes way on the podium for Brisbane Roar.

marching orders, a precarious future hanging over the head of coach Mehmet Durakovic – seemingly forced to front the media to reiterate who's in charge of the team, following reports suggesting the team was talking orders from assistant Kevin Muscat – and the untimely gossip surrounding Harry Kewell's apparent plans to bring in former Argentinean international Abel Balbo as his personal advisor and trainer.

Nonetheless, all appeared to have been forgotten, when the Victorian based outfit was graced with a Carlos Hernandez winner against Gold Coast United, to record its second triumph of the season.

Victory was acutely cruising to the finish line, playing a fluid brand of football, linking beautifully between defence and attack, which saw the team lead 2-0 during the opening half. It was a sight, rarely, if

ever seen under the rein of Durakovic in the A-League – possibly with exception to the opening round Sydney FC blockbuster. There appeared to be cohesion within the playing group, looking dangerous when venturing forward, with a purpose and hunger – constituents which were far from apparent in the dour week seven draw with Perth Glory, which saw Melbourne yield a two-goal cushion against 10 men to ultimately share the points.

Roddy Vargas' expulsion during the first half – a crude challenge on Golgol Mebrahtu – did swing momentum away from the host's, consequently surrendering its two-goal buffer. However, Victory exemplified poise, heart and an array of fighting spirit to eventually seal the three points, and importantly its first home win of the season, following four consecutive draws

in the Victorian capital.

Have Victory relinquished their calamitous beginning to the campaign? It would be a little premature at this point; overcoming a team placed at the foot of the table won't win over pundits. On the contrary, if last week was an indication of a collective unit gelling coherently, then Melbourne are certainly heading in the right direction.

Victory has an arduous schedule in the next week, and if it can conquer the rigours that accompanies it, then we may well see a renaissance in this star-studded line-up. An away trip to the Hunter Valley will see Melbourne take on the Newcastle Jets, with Adelaide United waiting Saturday week at home. Squashed in between the two A-League meetings is the glamour friendly with David Beckham's LA Galaxy on Tuesday night at Etihad Stadium. Whilst alarm bells were ringing throughout the embattled club last week, it's rather humorous that the club occupies third position on the table – its only loss, courtesy of a 1-0 defeat to Adelaide United in round two. It is not all doom and gloom for Victory, although its legion of top-flight stars must take the initiative, and make amends for their tenuous start to the season. It all begins against the Novocastrians.

Refereeing blunders dominate the headlines, yet again:

Gerard Parsons, this time was at the centre of controversy for Melbourne Heart's away trip to face the Central Coast Mariners. The referee's noticeable blunders paved the way for the home side to cement the bragging rights, and condemn a luckless Heart to another result influenced by the officials. Matt Simon's opener on the cusp of half time was fortunate to stand on two fronts. The corner, which lead to the goal, should have been awarded a goal-kick – with

replays evidently showing no deflection - while Parsons failed to award a foul on Simon at the subsequent set-play, who obstructed custodian Clint Bolton, before the forward hit his clinical strike to give the Mariners an undeserved lead.

If the earlier incidents weren't hard enough pills to swallow, drama struck once more. After clawing their way back into the tie through an Eli Babalj header, Parson's sensationally awarded Central Coast a spot kick late in the game, deeming Heart's Argentinean midfielder Jonatan Germano to use his hand inside the penalty area to control the ball. The decision was rather embarrassing, considering Parson was positioned perfectly, and yet got the verdict awfully wrong - replays revealed the ball clearly hit the shoulder of Germano.

Consequently, the spot kick proved to be the catalyst for a 3-1 Mainers victory. Refereeing is a difficult assignment, and while many fans understand this, mediocrity of this magnitude shouldn't be accepted in the Australia's premier football competition.

What is the correct formula to improve refereeing standards? There's no easy answer. Many fans have called for referees to become full-time, although with Football Federation Australia's limited budget this perhaps won't come into fruition for a while yet. As discussed on Fox Sports FC, having the officials go out to clubs and undertake some form of training could be an idea for long-term success. The FFA have been pro-active, appointing Mark Shield as director of refereeing, however it hasn't transitioned into a superior performance of officiating thus far. Hopefully we see more consistency amongst refereeing, as it is an integral element of the game's growth.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio



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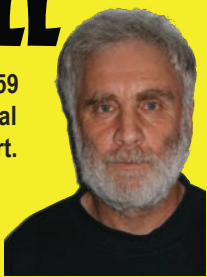
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BOOTS 'N ALL

Followed football in Australia since 1959 and mesmerised by European Cup final 1960 , Real Madrid v Eintracht Frankfurt. Played the game for 45 years before retirement but still refereeing senior amateur.



with Roger Sleeman

Hall of Fame
Last Tuesday's annual function was notable for the induction of only one former senior male player, Craig Moore.
The fact Moore only retired last season from the playing ranks makes you wonder how many nominations the Committee received or are they too particular who they induct.
Surely players like Marshall Soper and Jim Patikas who stopped playing years ago should be at the top of the tree for induction.
It's fine to induct journalists but isn't this game all about the players.
The Committee really needs to spread its wings and research the history of the game so the right people are chosen to receive recognition for their contribution.
I also found it amusing that people like

Kevin Sheedy and Bob Dwyer attended the function when it came to my attention that several former Socceroos I recently spoke to, were not on the guest list.
Shielding the Referees
Mark Shields was undoubtedly one of the finest referees ever produced in this country but even he, in his position of Director of Referees at the FFA, must be shaking his head at some of the decisions handed out in the last few weeks.
Miron Bleiberg had every right to shake his head after referee , Kris Griffiths - Jones , awarded a penalty against Gold Coast last Sunday because there was simply no illegal contact between Paul Beekmans and Archie Thomson.
John Van't Schip , the Melbourne Heart Supremo, also was mesmerised by the

decision of Gerard Parsons to award a penalty to Central Coast after Germano had clearly chested the ball.
It's a great shame Chris Beath was stood down for Round 8 because of his dubious sending off of Liam Miller and the awarding of a penalty after a clean tackle by Bas van den Brink on Archie Thomson.
Beath is one of our best referees and it was a rare bad day at the office for him.
Poor refereeing decisions can influence matches and can also cost coaches their livelihood so it's critical Mark Shields acts now.
Alternatively, he could leave his office job and return to the playing field to show how it should be done.
Fabio's Downfall
It's interesting how our commentators get so involved in the action they sometimes forget the basics.
If you watch the footage carefully when Fabio , the Melbourne Victory left back, was injured against Gold Coast you would notice he reached out to win the ball with his left foot when he was incorrectly positioned to win the ball with his favoured side.
If he'd used his right side where he was closer to challenge for the ball he would've maintained his balance and in all likelihood escaped any injury.
The commentators keep saying how improved he is but for me he's so one footed that any opponent worth his salt will



Officials are coming under a fair bit of scrutiny this season

always put him on his right side and win the ball every time in a one on one.
Raving Commentators
It's not only a problem in Australia that commentators refer to a player's weaker side.
In the EPL, some so called expert commentators are also dishing up the same hackneyed tripe.
Last weekend it was laughable when

Dirk Kuyt layed the ball off for Charlie Adam to sweetly strike the ball with his right foot ,only to see Joe Hart make a brilliant save with his feet.
Of course the commentator had to remark he had struck the ball with his weaker foot, totally forgetting Adam is an accomplished marksman with great technique and power in both feet.
Also, Daniel Sturridge of Chelsea against Wolves made a brilliant run

down the right flank with his right foot totally in control of the ball.
A few minutes later Sturridge sprayed the ball over the bar with his right foot and the commentator excused him on the grounds it was his weaker foot.
I truly believe these commentators should form a club and set up a website called, "A Home for One Sided Footballers".

The Daily Double
Last weekend produced two of the poorest football matches I've seen for some time.
Friday night's debacle between Adelaide United and the Jets produced little for the fans and it isn't any wonder that Adelaide's crowds are steadily falling.
Only Bruce Djite was really in the game for the Reds and their build up is so slow it's depressing.
Gary Van Egmond also has major problems with players who just won't lift their performances.
The less said about Australia's Olympic team's 0-0 result with Uzbekistan, the better.
Only Mate Dugandzic showed any flair and Aurelio Vidmar and Paul Okon will need a lot of luck with this squad to qualify for London because they just don't display the talent required to win at this level.

FACE IN THE CROWD



Win a Goal! Weekly subscription simply by spotting yourself in the crowd!
GW photographer Anita Milas was on hand to capture fans watching the 3-2 win by Melbourne Victory over Gold Coast United last weekend at AAMI Park.
If that's you circled in the picture above, send us a message on our Facebook page or drop us an email at news@goalweekly.com so you can win your prize - it's that easy!
You've got until noon this Wednesday to claim your prize. Good luck!

DOUBLE TAKE

One picked the wrong week to stop sniffing glue, the other picked this week to extend his managerial contract with the Republic of Ireland. Either way Giovanni Trapatoni and Lloyd Bridges are both flying high.

Seen any uncanny dopplegangers lately?

Let us know on our facebook page and you could win a prize.

Plains FC sailing ahead
According to Ben Buckley and the FFA football, our code, is the participant sport in Australia and while the national organisation deserves a lot of credit for this, it is what happens in the suburbs and the villages which determines the outcome.
Last week, the township of Bannockburn in Golden Plains Shire north of Geelong set up a junior football team. The inspiration came from Anthony Vanjek, son of one of the founders of Bell Park Soccer Club which has been a member of the Football Federation Victoria and its predecessors since 1959. Tony has been coaching youngsters at the local primary school for several years and now with a group of parents and interested friends they have formed a new club.
It is deeply grounded in the local community with sessions at the school every Thursday and plans to establish teams from the youngest age groups through to teenagers from next season onwards. Golden Plains Soccer Club is the chosen name because there is already a thriving Bannockburn Football Club and co-operation rather than competition is seen as the way forward. It is important to distinguish between the codes for a region which has both a strong traditional base and a huge influx of newcomers. Golden Plains is one of the fastest growing areas in the state.
As part of the foundations the new club has already established links with Melbourne Heart and Melbourne Victory, who are supporting the newcomer in various ways. The club has invited all the local children to design the logo with a competition which is open to all until 23 December. So if you want to be part of the latest and youngest football club in Victoria now is your chance. Please contact Anthony on avjanjek@bigpond.com.

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine is now available at Melbourne Victory, Melbourne Heart, Newcastle jets and Adelaide United home matches.

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BRISBANE ROAR FC



PHOTO: COURTESY BRISBANE ROAR FC



Back Row : George Lambadaridis, Mitch Nichols, Matt Jurman, Matt Acton, Michael Theoklitos, Andrew Redmayne, Mohamed Adnan, Erik Paartalu, Besart Berisha, Thomas Broich.

Middle Row: Kofi Danning, Rocky Visconte, Matt Mundy, Fernando Vaz Alves (Goalkeeping Coach), Tim Oostenbroek (Head Physio), Ian Dalzell (Team Manager), Kenny Stead (Fitness and Conditioning Coach), Rado Vidacic (Assistant Coach), James Meyer, Ivan Franjic, Nicholas Fitzgerald

Front Row: Issey Nakajima Farran, Jack Hingert, Corey Brown, Matt Smith (Captain), Ange Postecoglou (Head Coach), Shane Stefanutto, Luke Brattan, Massimo Muroccca, Henrique

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The Roar have come back from behind to draw level on 18 different occasions during the streak, including twice in one match (D2-2 v Gold Coast United 26-Dec-10, W3-3 v Central Coast Mariners 12-Jan-11).

Sixteen different players scored 78 goals during the streak, and there has been an additional two own goals. Kosta Barbarouses and Jean-Carlo Solorzano are equal top scorers with 11 goals each, followed by Broich, Nichols and Henrique with eight goals each.

The previous least number of losses suffered during 35 consecutive matches in Australian national league history was three: Marconi (1977–1978), Sydney City (1983–1984), South Melbourne (1985–1986), Apia Leichhardt (1986–1987) and Perth Glory (2000–2001).



The last time the Roar lost was on 12 September 2010, a 3-nil loss to the Melbourne Victory. Before this match the Roar were undefeated in four matches.

Peter Green has refereed the Roar the most times (9) throughout this streak.

The Roar have scored in every game during the streak, ranging from one goal (nine times) to seven (v Adelaide United 28-Oct-11).

Brisbane Roar have now gone 36 matches in a row without a loss – the longest undefeated run in Australian top-level sport.

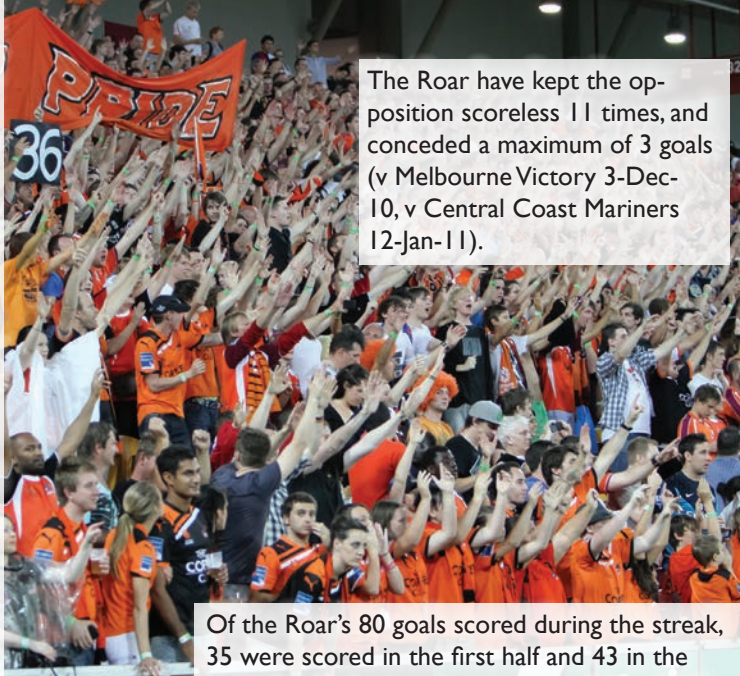
The current 36-match undefeated streak started with a 1-1 draw with Adelaide United on 18 September 2010.

FOR THE RECORD...

1	18-Sep-10	H Adelaide United	D	1-1
2	25-Sep-10	H Melbourne Heart	W	4-0
3	03-Oct-10	A Perth Glory	W	2-1
4	16-Oct-10	H Newcastle Jets	D	1-1
5	20-Oct-10	H Central Coast Mariners	W	2-0
6	23-Oct-10	H Melbourne Victory	W	2-1
7	30-Oct-10	A Sydney FC	D	1-1
8	03-Nov-10	A Wellington Phoenix	W	4-1
9	06-Nov-10	H Adelaide United	W	4-0
10	14-Nov-10	A Melbourne Heart	W	2-1
11	17-Nov-10	A Newcastle Jets	D	1-1
12	20-Nov-10	H North Queensland Fury	D	1-1
13	24-Nov-10	H Perth Glory	W	3-2
14	28-Nov-10	A Central Coast Mariners	W	5-1
15	03-Dec-10	A Melbourne Victory	D	3-3
16	12-Dec-10	A Sydney FC	W	1-0
17	18-Dec-10	A North Queensland Fury	W	2-0
18	26-Dec-10	H Gold Coast United	D	2-2
19	02-Jan-11	A Adelaide United	W	1-0
20	07-Jan-11	H Perth Glory	D	1-1
21	12-Jan-11	A Central Coast Mariners	D	3-3
22	26-Jan-11	H Wellington Phoenix	W	2-0
23	29-Jan-11	H Melbourne Heart	W	2-1
24	08-Feb-11	H North Queensland Fury	W	2-1
25	12-Feb-11	H Gold Coast United	W	4-0
26	19-Feb-11	A Central Coast Mariners	W	2-0
<i>(Major Semi 1st leg)</i>				
27	26-Feb-11	H Central Coast Mariners	D	2-2
<i>(Major Semi 2nd leg)</i>				
28	13-Mar-11	H Central Coast Mariners	D	2-2
<i>(GRAND FINAL – won on pens)</i>				
2011/12 SEASON				
29	08-Oct-11	H Central Coast Mariners	W	1-0
30	15-Oct-11	A Sydney FC	W	2-0
31	21-Oct-11	H Gold Coast United	W	3-0
32	28-Oct-11	H Adelaide United	W	7-1
33	05-Nov-11	A Melbourne Victory	D	2-2
34	13-Nov-11	H Wellington Phoenix	D	1-1
35	19-Nov-11	A Newcastle Jets	W	2-1
36	26-Nov-11	H Perth Glory	W	4-0



The Roar's maximum winning margin during the streak was six (W7-1 v Adelaide United 28-Oct-11), with another four games won by a four goal margin, two games with a three goal margin, five games with a two goal margin, and ten games have been won by a one goal margin.



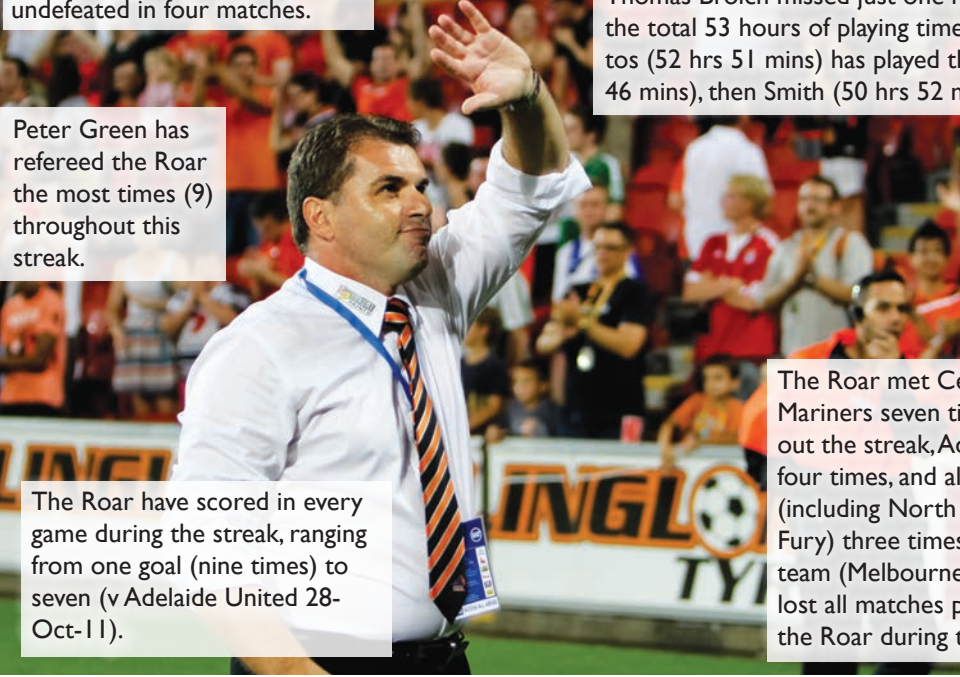
The Roar have kept the opposition scoreless 11 times, and conceded a maximum of 3 goals (v Melbourne Victory 3-Dec-10, v Central Coast Mariners 12-Jan-11).

Of the Roar's 80 goals scored during the streak, 35 were scored in the first half and 43 in the second half, plus two in extra time (Hyundai A-League 2011 Grand Final). Of the Roar's 32 goals conceded, 19 were scored in the first half and 11 in the second half, plus 2 in extra time.



The Roar have used 27 different players during the streak. Three players (Michael Theoklitos, Erik Paartalu, Matt Smith) have played in every game, Thomas Broich missed just one match, and Mitch Nicholls missed three. Of the total 53 hours of playing time throughout the 35-match streak, Theoklitos (52 hrs 51 mins) has played the most time, followed by Paartalu (51 hrs 46 mins), then Smith (50 hrs 52 mins).

An aggregate audience of 409,212 have watched the Roar throughout this streak, including 244,187 in 17 matches at Suncorp Stadium.



The Roar met Central Coast Mariners seven times throughout the streak, Adelaide United four times, and all other teams (including North Queensland Fury) three times. Only one team (Melbourne Heart) has lost all matches played against the Roar during this streak.



The Roar's record at Suncorp Stadium throughout this streak has been won 17 and drawn eight, with 41 goals scored and 15 conceded.

ANC enters semi showdowns

By Norm Edgar

IRELAND V ITALY

On a greasy pitch and with storms forecast the first quarter final got underway. In a good standard game Ireland was the stonger team but Italy defended strongly and it was not until the half hour mark that Ireland scored when Alan Kearney sent a long ball forward to Ray Lally wide on the left. A challenge from Johnny Crivelly on Lally and the ball went loose and Mark Leech scored with ease. Italy fought back and thought they had equalised through Simon Lamanda. But the goal was disallowed after the assistant referee's flag went up and instead the referee awarded a penalty for a foul by the goalkeeper from which Simon Lamanda

then scored. Ireland then went into overdrive and replied with two goals the first from Mark Leech after a centre from the right from Timmy Purcel. Timmy Purcell then scored from close range when a centre from Ray Lally found Purcell free in the penalty area. The second half was less eventfull with both defences able to contain the attacks of their opponents with Adrian Chiapetta in the Italy defence prominent. Ireland wrapped up the game in the 88th minute when Sam Sweeney scored from a solo effort with a shot from twenty five yards to win 4-1

SCOTLAND V TURKEY

In a very competitive game Scotland won 3-0 but that only proved that Scotland knew

how to finsh and Turkey did not. The first half was an even affair. Scotland managed to get the lead when Geoff Patterson bullocked his way into the penalty area and scored. Both teams had opportunities but none were taken. Due to Turkey's inability to finish Scotland were content to control the play with a short passing game whereas Turkey were taking the log ball option especially in the second half. Soner Kul in the Turkey midfield and anywhere else he was required was a workhorse as was Geoff Patterson in the Scotland midfield. The second goal for Scotland came from Luke Sherbon with Turkey pushing men forward they found themselves short at the back and with only the goalkeeper to beat scored easily. The last goal came with the

last kick of the game from a penalty converted by Luke Sherbon when Sherbon was put through and with only the goalkeeper to beat was upended. These two teams now play in the late game of the Semi-finals at 3pm to be played next Sunday 4th December

BOSNIA V ALBANIA

The first of the quarter finals played on Sunday was between Bosnia and Albania. Albania won this game in the first half when they got away to a 3-0 lead thanks to two goals to Ali Osmani in the 21st and 43rd minutes with a penalty converted by Ibrarimi Ibrarimi in the 23rd minute. Albania were the better team going forward making opportunities whereas the Bosnia forwards were unable to make much headway against a defence in which

Quarter Final Results

Ireland 4-1 Italy
Scotland 3-0 Turkey
Albania 3-1 Bosnia
Australia 2-1 Chile

Semi Final Draw

Sunday 4th December

1.00 ALBANIA V AUSTRALIA
3.00 SCOTLAND V IRELAND

Shane Rexhepi played well. Bosnia got a consolation goal in the 81st minute from Adam Klicevic.

AUSTRALIA V CHILE

The Australia versus Chile game to decide the last semi final place was a cliffhanger with Australia finally winning 2-1 after extra time was required and a golden goal deciding the result. The game also had its drama with three players being sent, two from Chile and one from Australia in the second half. The teams went to half time even with no goals but on resumption the Chile side went into the lead when Jack Webster scored in

the 49th minute when he finished off a good forward thrust. But not to be outdone Australia fought back and inside three minutes had equalised through Sasa Vranesevic who has had a good tournament. Things heated up and tempers started to fray as the tension increased with both teams looking for the winner. With both teams unable to find a winner the game went into extra time and a decision was finally reached when Mural Kaliskan scored in the second period of extra time at the 105th minute to end the game. Australia now plays Albania in the semi final next Sunday 4th December at 1pm.



Ireland's first goal has just been netted and Ray Lally (Lrft) and Maek Leech are all smiles.



Peter Mangiapane (Italy) flies over Irish defender Michael Kelly's tackle.



Scotland's Scott Webster zeroes in on Ahmet Turer (Turkey).



Scott Webster (Scotland) and Hasan Topal (Turkey) clash in midfield.



Sean McIlroy (Scotland) wins the header but fous his Turkish opponent.

Couch Potato Dept. * ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS ONE
Sunday December 6th
10:30 AM World Cup 2014 Magazine
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature -
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program

Monday December 5th
04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Friday 2 December
SBS ONE
6.45am (aedt) Live - Salzburg v Paris Saint-Germain

Saturday 3 December
SBS TWO
7.00pm - FC Twente v Fulham

SBS TWO
Monday December 5th
9:30 PM The World Game

SETANTA SPORTS

Saturday 3-Dec
UEFA Euro 2012™ Finals Draw - 4:00am
LIVE
Bundesliga Round 15 Leverkusen v Hoffenheim 6:25am LIVE
J-League Round 34 Teams TBC 5:30pm LIVE

Sunday 4-Dec
Scottish Premier League Round 17 St Mirren v Inverness 1:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 15 Stuttgart v Cologne 4:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 16 Nice v Rennes 6:55am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 16 Caen v Marseille 9:00am 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 17 Dundee United v Celtic 11:25am LIVE

Monday 5-Dec
Eredivisie Round 15 Feyenoord v PSV 1:45am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 15 Schalke v Augsburg 3:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 16 Lyon v Toulouse 6:20am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 17 Teams TBC 8:05am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 16 PSG v Auxerre 10:15am 1st Airing
FA Cup Round 2 Teams TBC 12:00pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 15 Heerenveen v AZ 1:45pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 15 Hamburg v Nuremberg 5:15pm 1st Airing

Thursday 8-Dec
Copa Sudamericana Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 11:45am LIVE

Saturday 10-Dec
Bundesliga Round 16 Hertha Berlin v Schalke 9:00am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 18 Teams TBC 11:10am LIVE
Scottish Premier League Round 18 Hibernian v Rangers 11:25pm LIVE

one

Saturday 03rd December
03:00 am Arsenal TV Carling Cup Archive
01:00 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Tuesday 06th December
02:30 am Arsenal TV Wigan V Arsenal
05:30 am 500 Great Goals

Wednesday 07th December
03:00 am Serie A: Inter V Udinese
05:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show
05:30 am FA Cup Classics F.A. Cup 5th Round 1993/94 Wimbledon V Manchester United

Thursday 08th December
02:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 15: Bayern Munich V Werder Bremen
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
05:30 am FA Cup Classics F.A. Cup Final 1993/94 Chelsea V Manchester United
06:00 am Serie A Parma V Palermo
01:00 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Friday 09th December
01:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
02:30 am 500 Great Goals
03:00 am FA Cup Classics F.A Cup 6th Round 1994/95 Liverpool V Tottenham Hotspur
06:00 am Bundesliga B Munich V W Bremen

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

Week 17
Sat Dec 3 Newcastle v Chelsea 11.38 pm
Sun Dec 4 Man City v Norwich 1.53 am
Sun Dec 4 Blackburn v Swansea 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 4 QPR v West Brom 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 4 Tottenham v Bolton 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 4 Wigan v Arsenal 1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Dec 4 Aston Villa v Man Utd 4.23 am
Mon Dec 5 Everton v Stoke 1.53 am
Mon Dec 5 Wolves v Sunderland 2.53 am
Tue Dec 6 Fulham v Liverpool 6.53 am

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Sat Dec 3 Crystal Palace v Derby 6.30 am
Sat Dec 4 Bristol City v Middlesbrough 4.00 am

A-LEAGUE LIVE
Fri Dec 2 Adelaide v Central Coast 7.30 pm
Sat Dec 3 Newcastle v Melbourne 7.00 pm
Sat Dec 3 Perth v Gold Coast 10.00 pm
Sun Dec 4 Melb Heart v Wellington 2.30 pm
SUn Dec 4 Sydney v Brisbane 5.00 pm



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Vidosic return a day-by-day proposition

By Nic Kerber

Injured Reds playmaker Dario Vidosic is optimistic but at the same time cautious about predicting a return date from his recovery from an un-displaced fracture in his back.

Vidosic fronted the media on Tuesday to discuss the injury, which he suffered when he fell on his back after a collision against the Wellington Phoenix before it flared up in the Reds' scoreless draw with the Newcastle Jets last Friday night.

"I landed unfortunately with my elbow underneath my back so I think that might have caused it, so it was a little bit painful but I was happy to get through the game and play again," Viosic said.

"So it will definitely be tough to watch this week being out, and I want to be out there to help the boys and I'll definitely be doing everything I can to get out there as soon as possible."

Initially, Vidosic thought the problem was only muscle related but scans revealed otherwise and although he is keen to limit the amount of time he is off the field, he is wary about making sure the fracture has healed sufficiently before he thinks about playing again.

"At the moment it's a day by day thing. I'd love to be able to play this week but we'll just have to wait and see how it reacts every day, and then when I start training see how it feels and hopefully it won't be too long," Vidosic said.

"It's hard to tell with bones, it's just about how it heals and how I feel."

Vidosic will undergo a modified training program and will certainly miss the



Dario Vidosic in action against Kasey Wehrman of the Jets last week. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Reds' match against the Central Coast Mariners at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

However, he is not ruling out a possibility of being available for selection for the following week's blockbuster with Melbourne Victory but again, it all depends on the timing of the healing process.

"I think it's mostly just riding and swimming at the moment and maybe

some straight line running, I felt comfortable to some degree with that... it's just like a broken bone so it just has to be left to heal basically," Vidosic said of his rehabilitation.

"Things like this you always have to be optimistic and stay positive. I'd love to play on Friday night against the Central Coast but I'll look day by day and hopefully for Melbourne Victory I can put my hand up for that game."

Smith Review recommends salary cap freeze

The Smith Review into the sustainability of football in Australia has recommended that the A-League freeze its salary cap.

The burden of costs to club owners is seen as one of the most significant issues hindering future development of the game in the country, and was a key finding of the review which was ordered in April by the Australian federal government

The Honourable Warwick Smith (AM), current chair of the Australian Sports Commission, was asked to conduct a review of the financial health of soccer in Australia ahead of the 2015 Asian Cup, which will be hosted in the country.

Smith's findings were broad ranging, covering everything from the need to connect with grassroots football, a greater need to seek feedback from A-League owners on strategic decisions, expansion of the A-League, cost management of Football Federation Australia head office and broadcasting legislation.

But no doubt the most startling recommendation is that any expansion of the current salary cap, which totals 24 million Australian dollars across the ten clubs, should be shelved and that the FFA should look to reduce the cap in order to bring it into line with other sports.

The report says that the 32 million dollars in total spent on player

payments (which include marquee payments) represents 40 percent of income generated by the A-League.

The AFL (Australian rules football's governing body), NRL (rugby league) and Super Rugby (union) spend only 20 percent of their income on player payments.

"While recognising the particular challenges faced by football, where there is strong international competition for talent, earning the right to grow must also apply to A-League player salaries," the report said.

"Salaries have increased at an unsustainable rate, out of step with the income the product generates and at a time when the Australian dollar is extremely competitive in the international player recruitment market."

"At a minimum the salary cap must be frozen, but it would be appropriate to explore options to reduce the cap. Options to adjust or remove the minimum player payment which artificially inflates incomes must also be considered."

"Unless this happens, given the proportion that player costs represent in clubs' total cost base, A-League clubs will, in the absence of a considerable increase in their revenue streams, struggle to move to a position of sustainability or profitability for the foreseeable future."

The report also raised concerns about the affect of the marquee player ruling

in terms of overall cost management.

"Clubs should not be recruiting players outside the salary cap unless FFA's existing 'capacity to afford' regulations are strictly applied," it said.

"A-League clubs must tap into the participation base to establish a connection with grassroots. The juniors of today should be the players, volunteers, fans and football community of the future."

The review also recommended that the A-League remains at its current ten-team format for the foreseeable future.

"A necessary element of this consolidation phase is for the A-League not to grow beyond this point until sustainability has been achieved, or where such a move – demonstrated through comprehensive business planning and modelling - would significantly contribute to sustainability," it read.

"Pre-conditions should be identified that must be met before the A-League further expands and, once a decision has been made to expand, the criteria that new franchises must meet to ensure their long-term prospects should be set."

The review also targeted cost cutting at FFA Head Office, saying that while the governing body required government funding, it would have to run a 'lean' operation.

-SoccerWay

As Vidosic becomes another Red to have his season disrupted by injury, he highly refutes pouring the blame on the club's injury management, treatment and the squad's physical conditioning as factors into why United has struggled to have everyone fit and available.

When asked whether any background reasons were the cause of a number of players in United's squad being hampered by injury, Vidosic's answer was emphatic.

"Definitely not. I don't think it's anything in the background. That's just part of professional sport, there are always going to be injuries regardless, and we're just a bit unlucky at the moment," Vidosic said.

"It's something that happens. If you look at even Barcelona recently, you'd have to say the best club in the world with the best medical department and best everything, they also went through a stage where everyone was asking questions about their injuries where the world's best players were getting injured and you'd think they'd get the world's best treatment, so it's part of sport, it's a little bit unlucky for us at the moment but once we get out of it we'll be fine and we'll come back stronger together."

While Vidosic's back will keep him out of Friday night's game with the in form Mariners, who have won four of their past five games, Sergio van Dijk and Evgeniy Levchenko are a chance to return from calf injuries, although both will need to prove their fitness during the squad's final training session on Thursday.



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

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South Australian Football



BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay



John Nyskohus leaps for the ball in front of Martyn Crook, watched by Robbie Dunn and Neville Flounders. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Aurelio Vidmar in Adelaide City colours. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

City of Churches FC

Adelaide United represents the capital of South Australia in the A-League today and stands at the pinnacle of a long football story.

Denis Harlow's monumental History of Soccer in South Australia starts with the first association which was formed in 1902, but the game was played in Adelaide and other parts of the state long before that. Harlow mentions a match between the Adelaide Rowing Club and a team from the British Association club in July 1893, but the recent digitisation of early Australian newspapers and research by Ian Syson and Bill Murray takes the story back to the 1870s. By 1903 North Adelaide, South Adelaide and Woodville were playing regularly and Port Adelaide was also founded that year. In 1909 Adelaide entertained the touring Soccerites from Western Australia on their extensive trip to the eastern states. The First World War eventually led to an interruption in the regular competition, but play resumed in 1919. In the 1920s the rise in immigration saw the game grow rapidly, but as happened elsewhere there was a split between those who wanted clubs based on the district in which they played and those who preferred to play with members of their community. South Australia entertained a number of the teams which came to this country in the interwar period, including English teams in 1925

and 1937 and Czech and Chinese teams in 1927.

When migration picked up after the Second World War a number of new clubs were formed which came to illuminate the local competitions from the 1950s to the 1970s, dubbed by Denis Harlow, 'The Golden Years'. Big crowds, flair players and many locally born youngsters who forced their way into state and national representation marked this era. Max Huffa, Joe Keleman, Ray Haddington, Aboriginal stars Charlie Perkins and John Moriarty, and Alex Beattie, who played for Australia in the Olympic Games in 1956 were among those who came to prominence. They were followed by Soccerroos John Kosmina, Stan Lazaridis, Milan Ivanovic and Alex Tobin.

Among the clubs which dominated the South Australian leagues Juventus led the way throughout the 1950s. Beograd were champions for the first time in 1960, and held on to the title for the next two years.

South Australian football history in the 1960s through to 2003 was marked by the rivalry between Adelaide City Juventus and West Adelaide Hellas as they shared titles at state level. Polonia upstaged them both in 1975 but in 1977 the Italian and Greek giants joined the National Soccer League.

West Adelaide finished on top of the ladder in 1978. The last game of

the home and away season was the derby against Adelaide City and Hellas needed a draw to clinch top spot from Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs, later Sydney City. Hindmarsh Stadium was full to capacity with a record 16,251 crammed in for the decider. John Perin put City ahead with a stunning free kick after 53 minutes but Vic Bozanic equalized in the 85th minute to secure the title for Hellas. Bozanic had two earlier efforts that came very close, but this time he latched on to a pass from Peter Boyle and beat two defenders and keeper Peter Marshall for the critical goal. The teams for that game were: West Adelaide: Martyn Crook, Barry Reynolds, Vic Bozanic, Neil McGachey, Con Kambas, David Jones, Peter Boyle, Dave Pillans, Graham Norris, Graham Honeyman, Ian McGregor (Peter Tymczyszyn 46) Jim Adam was the coach. Adelaide City: Peter Marshall, Bugsy Nyskohus, Fred Yung, John Besir, Frank Lister, John Perin, Gary Marocchi (Zoran Matic), Dixie Deans, Agenor Muniz, John Nyskohus, Brian Northcote. Coach: Les Scheinflug. Hellas lost in the play-offs to Hakoah and Marconi, but nothing could detract from winning the league by beating Juventus.

Adelaide City won the NSL Cup in 1979, 1989, 1991-92 and the NSL championship in 1986, 1991-92 and 1993-94. So overall it was the most

successful South Australian team. The interesting thing is that in all three seasons, City did not finish on top of the ladder, but came through strongly in the finals series. The 1993-94 squad included Robert Zabica, Sergio Melta, Tony Vidmar, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Carlo Talladira, Damian Mori, Carl Veart, Joe Mullen, Goran Lozanovski, Brad Hassell, Daniel Sabatino, Steve Maxwell and Jamie Perin. Zoran Matic coached the team to the Grand Final victory over Melbourne Knights thanks to a single goal from Damian Mori.

South Australian footballers often came in pairs as brothers (and sisters) represented clubs, the state and often the national team. The Nyskohus brothers, Bogdan (Bugsy) and John were stars with Adelaide City in the 1970s and 1980s and both were capped by the Soccerroos. Aurelio and Tony Vidmar followed in their footsteps at club and national level. Ross Aloisi played for both Juventus and Hellas while brother John after one appearance in the black and white stripes made his name in Belgium, Italy, England and Spain and with the Soccerroos. The Alagich family supplied Richie to West Adelaide, while sister Dianne gained 86 caps for Australia and was elected into the FFA Hall of Fame this week.



Adelaide City with the Southern Division championship after defeating Footscray JUST at Olympic Park in 1986. Players from left are Willie McNally, Steve Maxwell, Alex Tobin (obscured), Adrian Santrac, Charlie Villani and Bugsy Nyskohus. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Action from the final league game in the NSL in 1978 between West Adelaide and Adelaide City. Peter Marshall gathers a cross while David Pillans crashed into Frank Lister. Peter Boyle looking on. Source: Laurie Schwab



John Kosmina (right) and Ian Dobson in action in 1978. Photo: Ian Currie. Source: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Roar held by Glory as Heart hovers

By Daniel Quinn

Gold Coast steal the points late
Gold Coast has scored two late goals to steal the points against Melbourne Victory 2-1 at AAMI Park on Sunday.

The game started off quite slow with neither side creating any chances inside the 24 minutes before Melvin Becket stole the ball off a Gold Coast defender. The ball then fell for Luke O'Dea who finished superbly from the edge of the box to open the scoring. Right on the stroke of half-time Daniel Severino had an opportunity to open the scoring buy he smashed the crossbar from 25 yards. But it stayed nil-all at half-time.

Three minutes into the second-half Daniel Bragg's long attempt travelled over with 'keeper Keegan Coulter off his line.

On 57 minutes Chris Lucas was next to test Coulter in goal with a snap shot but it trickled wide.

Six minutes later Zachary Anderson put his header wide. It was a brilliant chance after a great Daniel Severino corner.

On 65 minutes Luke O'Dea tried to earn himself a brace as his right footed shot was saved by 'keeper Brendan White.

Daniel Bowles then had a chance to equalise on 76 minutes but his volley was put wide.

Four minutes later Daniel Severino scored a stunning equaliser with a brilliant free-kick which curled into the top corner.

The fight back was on for Gold Coast as they pushed numbers forward and scored the winner just before stoppage time with Severino's free-kick which was flicked in by Daniel Bowles.

Melbourne Victory remains winless, pointless and bottom of the table.

Victory coach Darren Davies was pleased with the performance despite the result. "Yeah disappointed with the result but pleased with the performance. I thought we played better than we have for 45 to 55 minutes and there was a lack of intensity in the last 30 mins and that is obviously to do with playing at a high intensity and obviously we need to last the full 90 minutes."

Bosnjak brilliance takes the points
Melbourne Heart has defeated Central Coast Mariners 2-1 on Sunday at John Cain Memorial with a late goal from Zac Walker.

Adrian Zahra created the first two chances with a shot from the edge of the box saved and a header put over



Kristian Sarkies (Heart) bustles Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (Mariners) off the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

from a Goodwin cross.

Mitchell Duke then had the visitor's first chance when he was one-on-one with Roganovic but his finish was poor and hit straight at the Heart 'keeper.

Kwabena Appiah-Kubi's cross then came off Billy Liolios which was tapped home but it was ruled out for offside. Duke then had yet another chance as his free-kick was spilled by Roganovic but safely saved before trickling over. Heart opened the scoring on 53 minutes when Brodie Patterson smashing the crossbar from distance. Stipo Andriasevic was then in the right place to head home.

The game changed though when Heart 'keeper Roganovic and Jeremy Walker collided. Both were substituted with Roganovic with a leg injury and Walker with concussion.

Appiah-Kubi was then fouled in the box on 73 minutes by Alon Blumgart. Justin Hayward then stepped up and buried the penalty.

On 86 minutes it was Zac Walker who gave Heart the lead after a brilliant run by Dusan Bosnjak. Walker then finished from Bosnjak's cut back.

AIS defeat in form Sydney
AIS have defeated an in form Sydney 4-3 in a thrilling encounter at AIS Track on Saturday.

The first chance came on three minutes as Stefan Mauk played in Anthony Proia whose shot was deflected over. Jared Lum for Sydney had their first opportunity with a free-kick but Paul Izzo in goal saved well.

AIS then took the lead through a stunning Mauk strike from long range on 14 minutes.

Proia then extended the lead with a powerful drive from outside the box nine minutes later.

The AIS was still pushing numbers forward trying to extend the lead even further as Yianni Perkatis had a curling effort parried for a corner by Marko Bozic in goal.

On 33 minutes it was 3-0 to the hosts when Daniel Barac finished in the bottom corner. The AIS were all over their opponents.

Lum' was next to test the 'keeper with another free-kick just before half-time. This time it went in to make 3-1 at half-time.

As the second-half restarted The AIS

continued from the first with Kobbie Boahene finding Proia but Bozic was in the way to save.

Perkatis then could have finished off the visitors but his effort was saved again by Bozic.

Sydney started to come back into it as Mitchell Oxborrow cleared a goal bound strike.

On 65 minutes Sydney cut the deficit down to one when Mitchell Mallia tapped home.

Two minutes from time The AIS did finish off Sydney as Riley Woodcock found Benjamin Garuccio at the far post. Garuccio then finished brilliantly. Blake Powell then scored a late consolidation but it finished 4-3.

Payne hat-trick destroys Adelaide
A hat-trick from Chris Payne has helped Newcastle defeated Adelaide 5-0 at Burton Park on Saturday.

Adelaide had the first chance on 15 minutes from long range through Liam Wooding but Jack Duncan was there to save. Duncan's save then hit the post and was eventually cleared.

Two minutes later Payne had a strike blocked well by the strong Adelaide

defence.

However on 29 minutes Payne opened the scoring after a great run and cross by Mario Simic. Payne then controlled and finished to make it 1-0.

On 35 minutes it was 2-0 with Payne scoring his second as he finished easily passed Nicholas Munro in goal.

Four minutes later The Reds had a chance to get one back through Tee-boy Kamara but his header was easily saved by Duncan.

Three minutes before the break David Taleski made it three after another great cross from Mario Simic.

The second-half was dull with neither side creating much as the result was already determined.

However Ali Abbas made it four on 77 minutes easily finishing.

Then it was finished off in the last minute with Payne scoring his third with an amazing finish from long range and an acute angle.

Even in Brisbane
Perth Glory has held Brisbane Roar to a 2-2 draw on Sunday at Cleveland Showgrounds.

The first chance however didn't come

Results

AIS 4:2 Sydney FC
Adelaide United 0:5 Newcastle Jets
Melb Victory 1:2 Gold Coast United
Melbourne Heart 2:1 CC Mariners
Brisbane Roar 2-2 Perth Glory

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Brisbane Roar FC	6	4	1	1	19	11	8	13
2 Melbourne Heart	6	4	0	2	11	10	1	12
3 Perth Glory FC	6	3	2	1	14	12	2	11
4 CC Mariners	6	3	1	2	14	7	7	10
5 Sydney FC	6	3	1	2	18	10	8	10
6 Gold Coast United	6	3	0	3	11	11	0	9
7 Newcastle Jets FC	6	2	2	2	14	13	1	8
8 AIS	5	2	0	3	10	11	-1	6
9 Adelaide United	6	1	1	4	7	15	-8	4
10 Melbourne Victory	5	0	0	5	3	20	-17	0

Next Round

3 Dec 11 3:00pm
AIS Vs Melbourne Heart
AIS Athletics Track, Canberra

3 Dec 11 4:00pm
Sydney FC Vs Brisbane Roar
Leichhardt Oval, Sydney

3 Dec 11 4:30pm
Adelaide United Vs CC Mariners
Burton Park

4 Dec 11 10:00am
Perth Glory FC Vs Gold Coast United
6PR Stadium, Inglewood

4 Dec 11 5:00pm
Newcastle Jets Vs Melbourne Victory
Adamstown Oval, Newcastle

until 21 minutes with James Donachie but he took too long to make a decision and lost the ball.

On 27 minutes Tomislav Cirjak brilliantly crossed for Fitzgerald but the forward had his shot cleared.

Rocco Visconte and Matt Thurtell then had attempts saved on 29 and 30 minutes respectively by Perth 'keeper Lewis Italiano.

However three minutes later it was the visitors who opened the scoring through Reece Vittiglia.

Three minutes before the break Thurtell equalised when he poked home Corey Brown's cross.

Perth had two chances early on to take the lead but O'Brien fired wide and Matt Acton saved brilliantly to deny Caniglia.

But on 58 minutes it was Fitzgerald for Roar who finished after a deflection to take the lead.

However their lead wasn't held for long when Ndumba Makeche sent in a ball for Jesse Makarounas who finished easily.



Craig Goodwin (Heart) gets there just in time to deny Nick Littler (Mariners) the chance for a last minute equaliser. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Josh Groenewald (Heart) keeps the ball way from Mitchell Duke (Mariners). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



SFC and Roar take care of second place

By Ann Odong

Sydney into second

Sydney FC have moved their way into second place in the Westfield W-League after a comprehensive 4 -1 win over Adelaide United. While the Brisbane Roar racked up back to back wins after defeating Melbourne Victory 1 - 0 in a tight contest.

After a sluggish start, Sydney FC have overcome a valiant Adelaide United 4-1 thanks to a stunning Heather Garriock strike and goals from Servet Uzunlar and Caitlin Foord.

Coming off their season break, Sydney FC started the match the stronger with their powerhouse midfield applying pressure to Adelaide early. With clear possession dominance, the Sky Blues went on the attack hitting the post early and providing opportunities for Khamis, Garriock and Danielle Brogan all to score early. However some excellent goalkeeping from Sian McLaren and last ditch defending from the Reds' back four kept the home side in the match.

Dave Edmondson's side eventually fought their way into the match with the standout Donna Cockayne leading the way and just on 30 minutes the home side stunned the visitors. On the shoulder of Estelle Johnson, striker Marijana Rajcic took control of a long ball before delicately chipping it from distance over the head off Allison Lipsher. Buoyed, the Lady Reds twice went close to doubling their lead again through Rajcic and then through youngster Grace Henry. Minutes later they were made to pay for squandering those chances when Garriock was picked out by Sarah Walsh. 15 yards from goal, the experienced international produced a stunning curling finish to bring her side level. Less than five minutes later, the visitors hit the lead as McLaren disastrously fumbled a deep Uzunlar cross into the back of the net.

Down only be a goal at the break, Adelaide continued their endeavors but, although enjoying a bulk of the possession, we unable to capitalise on it. This time it was Sydney who worked their way into the half, and when Caitlin Foord was substituted into the match, it had an immediate impact. On 67 minutes, the AFC Youth Player of the Year, skipped into the penalty area before being brought down by Emma Checker. Kylie Ledbrook took the subsequent spot kick only



Sydney FC keeper Allison Lipsher punches clear the Adelaide United danger. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

to see it roll into the post before being hastily cleared by United defence.

Despite the miss, it wasn't long before Sydney had another goal on the board. Again it was through the unfortunate McLaren, who failed to punch clear the subsequent corner with the ball instead landing in the back of the net. With less than 15 minutes left in the game, Sydney gained a fourth with Foord's strike evading the goalkeeper's hands.

Champs go back to back

Emily Gielnik's second half strike has seen defending champions the Brisbane Roar notch up back-to-back victories with a 1 - 0 win over Melbourne Victory at the Cleveland Showgrounds on Saturday afternoon.

The home side started the match brightly as they created a chance to take the lead just three minutes into the contest. Goal scoring captain Clare Polkinghorne was again in the thick of things when her nicely weighted cross just evading the on rushing Tameka Butt. Five minutes later it was the visitors turn

to sight the opposition goal when winger Ashley Brown latched onto a cross only to see her headed ball parried away by Roar goalkeeper Casey Dumont.

On 15 minutes, Lana Harch and Vedrana Popovic worked to provide a nicely flighted ball to Butt though this time she was unable to create enough power to trouble Cassandra Dimovski. Five minutes later it was Dumont's turn to be called on by her team as Katrina Gorry produced a quality header forcing a quality save from Dumont.

All even at half time, it wasn't long after the restart that the deadlock was broken. Super sub Gielnik proved too strong for her marker as she controlled a long ball before slotting home past Dimovski. A goal in the bag, the Roar then dominated proceedings with a strong defensive effort denying Victory a sight at their goal. The visitors however did have one final chance to claim a point but captain Jodie Taylor was unable to produce enough power to trouble Dumont.



SFC's Servet Uzunlar outjumps Adelaide's Grace Henry. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Sarah Walsh celebrates her goal with skipper Heather Garriock. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Results

Adelaide United 1 (Marijana Rajcic 30)
Sydney FC 4 (Heather Garriock 38, Servet Uzunlar 42, OG 76, Caitlin Foord 78)

Brisbane Roar 1 (Gielnik 47)
Melbourne Victory 0

Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory washed out.

Canberra United had the bye.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Canberra United FC	5	5	0	0	13	5	15
2 Brisbane Roar	5	3	1	1	11	3	10
3 Sydney FC	5	3	1	1	11	5	10
4 Melbourne Victory	5	2	0	3	8	5	3
5 Newcastle Jets FC	4	2	0	2	8	9	-1
6 Perth Glory FC	4	1	0	3	6	11	-5
7 Adelaide United FC	6	0	0	6	4	19	-15

Next Round

3 Dec 11 3:00pm
Melbourne Victory Vs Newcastle Jets
Skilled Stadium, Geelong

3 Dec 11 3:00pm
Brisbane Roar Vs Canberra United
Cleveland Showgrounds, Cleveland

3 Dec 11 7:00pm
Sydney FC Vs Perth Glory FC
Leichhardt Oval, Sydney

Adelaide United Vs Bye



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Cool hand Luke has his day in the sun

Luke O'Dea who was born on the 14th of April 1993 in Warragul, Gippsland, Victoria is a versatile forward who is contracted to A-League side Melbourne Victory.

Luke is currently involved in the National Youth League side but is also registered for the seniors like a follow Rising Star Nick Ansell. Which means Mehmet Durakovic and Melbourne Victory believe he has potential.

Luke signed with the Victory in 2010 and made his first uncompetitive appearance against Boca Juniors and followed that up with a substitute appearance against Celtic in 2011. Initially the then coach Ernie Merrick only wanted to check Luke at training before the unexpected contract was offered.

Luke like a lot of the Victory youngsters have come through the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) which is where he was coached under Mehmet Durakovic. Once Mehmet took over the NYL side he brought in Luke. During the 2010-11 NYL season Luke played 18 games and that experience helped his development immensely.

Born and raised in Warragul Luke's parents realised that he likes to with a ball at his feat not his hands like a lot of Australian kids. Luke's parents signed him up at Warragul United where he played most of his junior Football before joining Mornington for one season in 2006. At Mornington is where he was offered a scholarship at the VIS which was obviously accepted.

Luke can play anywhere in the attacking third. On either wing, up front on his own or in behind the striker. Although Luke prefers to play on the wing or up front. Most recently he has been used as a Winger.

Luke has also been capped 4 times at international level with the Australian U20 side. These caps all came in the 2011 SBS Cup in Japan where he was rewarded for his good form and hard work.

Unfortunately this season despite scoring a screamer against Sydney last week in the NYL Luke is currently struggling with stress fractures in his back and has for the last six months. This sometimes forces him to miss training and leave a game early. But Luke is hoping he will be fit soon as he monitors his injury.

Luke's contract only runs until April and talks have not started regarding an extension but Luke knows he has to put the foot down to earn himself another contract.

I sat down with Luke to discuss Football, Melbourne Victory and Harry Kewell.

Earliest Football Memory:
Probably just being a youngster every Saturday morning waking up and getting excited to play. Don't really have a specific one.

Football idols:
Cristiano Ronaldo, just love the way he plays, he is always looking dangerous.

Goal in your Football career:
Of course I'd love to make it in Australia, try and make a name for myself here. If I do that then go overseas and



Luke O'Dea goes through the paces at training with Melbourne Victory team-mates.

see how I go over there. But at the moment I'll just concentrate on trying to make it here first.

Anywhere in particular in Europe where you would go?
Not really. Would really love to play in England, I just love the style there, the speeds of it and things like that. But besides that anywhere that is decent I'd be happy to go.

What made you want to play Football?
Just as a kid whenever there was a ball around I never used by hands. I always kicked it around and dribbled it. I guess my parents sort of noticed that and registered me at a club and I never looked back.

Which club do you wish to play for?
Man United always has been the club I have ever loved.

You must have been disappointed when Cristiano Ronaldo left?
Yeah I was, I was shattered but what can you do?

What are your strengths?
I like to think I am good at taking players on, think I am pretty skilful and quick and I think I am a decent finisher.

What are you weaknesses?
My defensive side of my game probably needs some work and probably my tackling as well.

How well do you think you have done this season for the Melbourne Victory Youth team?
I put in 100% every week but it has been hard since we are a few men

underdone but I thought I have done alright so far.

Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?
I always stay after training to do half an hour or 40 minutes of passing and I do about 20 minutes of shooting, just to work on the part of the games I think are good so I can make them better. I also have been doing a fair bit of work on my opposite foot lately.

Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?
I always try and work really hard on the field to show that I am always enthusiastic. I have always tried to express myself in training and not to be scared. So whether taking players on or shooting or stuff like that I have always tried it.

Do you feel pressure to perform?
Yes and no. Of course there is always the pressure of being a senior player; you got to be the best week in week out for the Youth Team. But also with that there is a reason why you are on a contact and you just have to go out and show it. But in terms of pressure the coach never puts pressure on so why should you put pressure on yourself.

Are you happy at Melbourne Victory?
Yeah I am loving it at the moment, I really am enjoying it. Now that we are getting nice weather too it is getting better as well.

You signed as a 16 year old to a professional deal with Melbourne Victory. How do you feel about that?

Well at the time it didn't really seem realistic, like I just got asked by Ernie Merrick to come train with the team then contracts were not in picture and then I was offered one. Of course I was happy and all my family was happy. Yeah now I just need to move forward to get another one.

Despite being only 18 you have played 18 games for Victory in the National Youth League last season. You must be pleased with the amount of game time?
Yeah it was good, the season before that I only played one or two as a fill in player. Over the next season I played 17 or 18 but I would have like to score a few more goals. But that is the aim of this year so I'll see how I go.

Mehmet Durakovic is the new coach now for the senior team at Melbourne Victory. Since you played under him in the youth team you must be pleased that Mehmet got the job?
Yeah it is good for Mehm to get the job. I have always liked him, I stuck by him and he sticks by me. It helps since he knows me as a player as well. Mainly he brought me to the club in the first place so, which is a good positive for me I think.

At the moment the seniors are not playing to the standard they should be. Is there confidence among the playing group?
Yeah there is always confidence among the playing group. You just need to look around to some of the players. You have got Thompson, Kewell, Hernandez, Rojas and some good youngsters there. Of course the players are always confident and I think the results

will come soon just hopefully sooner rather than later before it's too late.

Darren Davies is the new coach of the Youth Team. How is he as a coach?
Yeah he is really good. I have a lot of praise for Darren, he stepped in and he knows what he wants to do. At the moment is hard for him since there are so many youngsters but in time you can see what he is working to and eventually I think we will be a great little side.

You come off the bench last year against Boca Juniors. What did you learn from that experience?
Basically just the same as any other day of playing or training. Not to get overrode by the crowd by how big the game is or who is watching or anything like that. You just have to try and express yourself and enjoy it.

You also come off the bench in pre-season against Celtic. What did you learn from that experience?
That was probably one of the highlights of my career so far playing at AAMI in front of so many people. Just to enjoy it and try and get on the ball as much as you can because it is probably the best place to show what you can do and be out there to impress the coaches while there is so many people watching.

Another big friendly is coming against David Beckham's LA Galaxy. Have you been told if you are going to be involved?
Nah they haven't spoken to us about that game yet. Of course we still have a few A-league games before then and the A-League is the priority because it's the league we are in. But I am sure

they will speak to use closer to the game and give us an idea of how is going to play and if the youngster will get much game time. At the moment I am just hoping ill get a run but we will wait and see how I go.

What are you hopes for this A-League season?
Me myself? Of course I would love to play a few games but at the moment my priority is to get through injury free and stay fit. For the team of course we would like to make the finals and eventually win. That would be something I'd remember for the rest of my life, so hopefully to win the championship.

What are your chances of breaking into the first team?
In the short term? Well it is hard at the moment since we have got so many players. But the club is looking to the future with youngsters and hopefully in the future I'll get a bit of game time.

You must be pleased with Harry Kewell signing?
Yeah it has been really good and he has been really good for the young players as well. He is always advising, trying to help you out and make you a better player. He doesn't accept anyone slacking off. So he has been really good and it has been massive for the club.

Harry Kewell plays a similar position to you so what can you or what have you learnt from a player like Harry?
Just watching him a lot at training. A few things would be how quick he gets the ball and moves it and his positioning really. Just where he stands when certain players have got the ball and the runs he makes and stuff like that. It's all good to watch and learn.

You were called up to the U20's for The SBS Cup in Japan. What can you tell us about your experience there?
Look it was awesome to play for Australia. It's a young kids dream to play for Australia at some stage. I sort of think it is a bit of a reward for the hard work you put in at training. I really enjoyed playing against international countries. It was a good experience all round.

Obviously you wish to continue to be called up to national team camps or competitions?
Yeah of course, that is sort of how you judge how you are doing, whether you are being called up or not. I'd love to be keep being called up but there are a lot of good players out there as well but I just got to keep training hard and put a foot forward and wait and see what happens.

Would you consider playing for Ireland if given the opportunity?
Yes and no, maybe. It depends really how I keep playing for young Socceros and 23s and stuff like that. If I didn't think it was much of a choice then it could be an option. But at the moment I am happy playing where I am and getting called up so it is good.

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TITLES FOR GRABS IN ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND COPA SUDAMERICANA

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

COPA SUDAMERICANA FINAL DECIDED

Ecuadorian giants Liga Deportiva Universitaria reached another Copa Sudamericana final as they beat Argentinian champions Vélez Sarsfield 1-0 in Buenos Aires to clinch a 3-0 aggregate win.

Hernán Barcos scored the only goal early in the second half, and Liga will face Universidad de Chile or Brazilian giants Vasco da Gama next.

Eduardo Bauzá's Liga side are targeting their second Sudamericana title, having won their first in 2009 when they defeated Fluminense of Brazil.

Ricardo Gareca's Vélez Sarsfield had to react to the 2-0 defeat they suffered in Quito, forcing them to play an attacking game.

Guillermo Franco had an opportunity to give Vélez the lead in the 20th minute, when he connected with a Héctor Canteros cross from the right to the far post.

Liga goalkeeper Alexander Domínguez prevented his effort crossing the goal-line.

Four minutes after the interval, Argentinian striker Barcos put Liga ahead, allowing the Ecuadorian side to play a relaxed game for the remainder of the second half.

Néicer Reasco crossed the ball and Barcos reached between two defenders to control with his right leg and immediately shoot past goalkeeper Marcelo Barovero.

With six minutes to go, Enrique Gámez failed to finish off a Barcos cross from the left after a counter-attacking move which could have brought another goal for Liga.

Vélez almost scored in stoppage-time but Domínguez saved well from Ezequiel Rescaldani's header.

Domínguez was delighted with the win, telling Fox Sports: "We have to rest well



Dario Cvitanich opened up the scoring for Boca and the festivities as the Xeneizes only need a point for their long-awaited victory lap.

because we'll play a very tough final.

Vélez Sarsfield midfielder Augusto Fernández was unable to hide his disappointment, saying: "We are sad because we wanted to win, we had that dream. We don't regret anything. We played better in Buenos Aires. They played better in Quito. Also, they scored goals."

Universidad de Chile scored their early goal from naturalised Chilean forward Gustavo Canales on 31 minutes.

The Chilean side opted to play in its alternative venue of the Santa Laura stadium as the National stadium is in use for a nationwide charity event.

Vasco da Gama tried to break down the Universidad de Chile defence in the first half. The Chilean side played long balls in order to also break down the Brazilian side's aerial weaknesses.

It was a messy first-half with foul and Juninho formerly of Lyon unable to find his form.

Universidad de Chile and Vasco da Gama drew 1-1 in Rio de Janeiro last week and clashed again today in Santiago.

Stay tuned on our website for the full-time result.

BOCA JUNIORS AND CORINTHIANS A MATCH AWAY FROM GRABBING TITLE

Last Monday, Dario Cvitanich (pictured) -formerly of Ajax Amsterdam

scored after nine minutes, then was brought down in the box in the 36th and captain, central defender Rolando Schiavi converted the penalty.

Unbeaten Boca Juniors guaranteed themselves the top slot in the Apertura tournament standings after beating Godoy Cruz 2-1 in Mendoza. Julio César Falcioni's side may become the new Argentine champions next week at La Bombonera.

Leaders Boca Juniors beat Godoy Cruz 2-1 yesterday at the Malvinas Argentinas stadium in Mendoza in a match for the 16th round of the Apertura Tournament and guaranteed themselves the first place.

Julio César Falcioni's team, unbeaten in the season, can claim the title this weekend if they get a point against Banfield at La Bombonera stadium.

Godoy Cruz midfielder Ariel Rojas pulled one back for the Mendoza team four minutes from time with a brilliant shot from outside the box that went in off the underside of the bar.

Boca are nine points ahead of second-placed Tigre whose only chance for taking the title is to win their three remaining matches and that Boca lose theirs in order to go into a playoff definition as goal difference is not taken into account.

Promoted Unión are the only other side in title contention. They drew to Independiente at home in Santa Fe and trail

Tigre. Both are behind Boca with three games to go.

CORINTHIANS A GAME AWAY FROM BRAZILIAN TITLE

Corinthians need only a draw in their final match to take the title in Brazil, but they can still be pipped by Vasco da Gama who have proved a dogged adversary all season long.

The Sao Paulo-based club thought they'd sealed the title on this, the penultimate weekend of the Brasileirao, but they were thwarted on the verge of glory by determined chasers Vasco da Gama, whose win against Fluminense means the 2011 title will be decided on the final matchday, next Sunday.

Liédson (pictured) scored for Corinthians at Figueirense to secure a 1-0 win for the league leaders. Having started the day two points ahead of Vasco, the Corinthians' players and fans remained after the final whistle awaiting news from the crucial Vasco contest.

It looked like Timao would have plenty to celebrate, but Vasco's Bernardo had other ideas and scored a dramatic late goal to seal a win and keep his side in the race for first place.

All will be known on what is bound to be a nervy final Sunday in the Brasileirao. Therefore two huge derbies to be played in the final round.

Corinthians need only a draw against local fierce rivals Palmeiras, while



: Hernán Barcos the star for LDU de Quito taken the Ecuador club giants to yet another Copa Sudamericana final

Vasco da Gama must beat cross-town rivals Flamengo and hope that Corinthians lose.

SERGIO AGÜERO DESIRES RETURN TO INDEPENDIENTE

A young Sergio Agüero was only fifteen years of age when he made his first-team debut for the Red Devils of Avellaneda, known as the "king of cups", Independiente in his native Argentina.

Currently boosting and settling in well with Manchester City under Roberto Mancini, the Argentinian starlet has revealed he will follow the footsteps of many South American talents and finish their swansong back in their native countries.

Agüero (pictured at 15) has a 38 million euro price tag and with 10 goals already in ten matches, plus his heart-stopping injury-time winner against Spanish side Villarreal in the Champions League to top it off shows the quality export of players that come out of Argentina.

"I would like to go back to Independiente to retire, to round off my career," he said. "I was there from the age of nine and I was a fan, so it means a lot to me. But I hope to have many years in Europe first and more than anything I want to stay at least for the five at City that I signed a contract for. And then, looking to the future, yes, I would like to go back to Independiente to retire."

NEWSPAPER EL PAIS TO DECIDE 'BEST OF AMERICAS'

Prestigious Uruguayan newspaper El País are at that time of the year again deciding who shall be the "King of the Continent".

Both Neymar of Santos, the young Brazilian sensation who stormed to fame after his spectacular performance with his club side winning the Copa Libertadores and Universidad de Chile's Eduardo Vargas for his lightning pace and goals in this second half of the year's Copa Sudamericana.

Journalist Raúl Tavano has already announced, "The first votes have gone to Neymar's favour by majority while the other favourite is Eduardo Vargas for his superb performances in the Copa Sudamericana", at the offices of the Uruguayan paper.

The young Chilean forward has grabbed the headlines for his current form in the Copa Sudamericana while Neymar in the first half of the year stole the show with his goals, spectacle, entertainment and glory.

Fellow Santos teammate Paulo Henrique Ganso and Alejandro Martinuccio of Uruguay's Peñarol who ended runner-up in the Copa Libertadores losing to the Brazilian outfit in the final and currently plays with Fluminense.

Follow me on Twitter: Twitter.com/FrancisFields

BRIEFS

Ferguson apologises for Palace loss

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson apologised to the club's fans after their shock 2-1 extra-time loss to Crystal Palace in the Carling Cup. United crashed out of the competition on Wednesday after a 2-1 defeat to Dougie Freedman's team in the Old Trafford clash.

"My apologies are to the fans tonight, because that was not a Manchester United performance," Ferguson said.

Sunderland sack manager Bruce

Premier League club Sunderland have decided to part company with manager Steve Bruce. Bruce had come under increasing pressure after Sunderland's poor start to the season was compounded by a 2-1 home defeat against Wigan last weekend.

A statement from club chairman Ellis Short read: "This has been a difficult time for everyone at Sunderland and is not a situation that any of us envisaged or expected to be in."

FIFA aim to tackle corruption

A number of radical proposals to fight corruption and conflict of interest concerns in FIFA's handling of World Cup bids have been announced. Mark Pieth, who has been appointed to chair FIFA's independent governance committee, put forward a number of proposals aimed at radically changing the way in which the organisation is run during a press conference in Zurich on Wednesday. Pieth, a professor in criminal law at the University of Basel, admitted that some of his recommendations are unlikely to be well received.

Copa Sudamericana: Universidad de Chile 2 Vasco da Gama 0

Universidad de Chile will meet Ecuadorian side LDU Quito in the Copa Sudamericana final after easing past Vasco da Gama 2-0 on Wednesday.

Gustavo Canales and Eduardo Vargas netted as Jorge Sampaoli's team secured a place in their first ever continental final, with the second-leg victory over the Brazilians giving them a 3-1 aggregate win.

Vasco struggled to create clear-cut chances throughout the encounter and had full-back Fagner red-carded in the

70th minute. Universidad's win sets up a final against LDU Quito, with the first leg to be played in Ecuador on December 7. Coming into the clash at Estadio Santa Laura after a 1-1 draw in Brazil, Universidad were forced to hold off a period of prolonged pressure from Vasco in the opening minutes.

Vasco fired in several dangerous crosses and free kicks, but the hosts' defence and goalkeeper Jhonny Herrera were up to the task.

Needing to find a goal, Vasco were left open in defence and Argentine striker Canales took advantage.

He sent the home fans into raptures

on the half-hour mark when he fired home from close range after a scramble in the area.

Vargas almost doubled the home team's advantage early in the second half, but he hit the post with a delicate chip after Canales' wonderful pass.

Vasco's task was made even harder with 20 minutes left when Fagner saw red after elbowing Canales in the face.

Universidad put the tie to bed soon after when Vargas polished off a wonderful team move with a close-range volley.

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Kennedy, Holman and McDonald on target

On the pitch, a lot of Aussies are seeing game time at club level, while the Socceroos also played several games during November. A busy month for transfers with a high number of players changing clubs across Europe and Asia.

Club Level:-
England (Premier League) – Chris Herd’s Aston Villa have had an inconsistent month but are now in the top half of the table with Chris making another few starts in the midfield. Everton has won the last two games to climb back to ninth, but are still missing the goals of **Tim Cahill** who is yet to break his duck for the season. **Mark Schwarzer** is having yet another outstanding season as Fulham stay just clear of the relegation spots. The same can’t be said for Blackburn Rovers. They sit bottom of the table as **Vince Grella** remains on the sidelines. Could the departure of Brett Emerton be having a big impact!!

England (Championship) – despite dropping a few points over the past few games, Middlesbrough currently sit third, but are now eight points shy of the automatic promotion places. **Rhys Williams** is possibly in career best form, while **Scott McDonald** scored three times during the month. A return to the starting eleven by **Patrick Kisorbo** has coincided with a good run of form that sees Leeds into the playoff positions. Good form has also seen **Adam Federici’s** Reading climb into play off contention with several valuable wins. The opposite can be said for Crystal Palace, as **Mile Jedinak’s** team have dropped back to mid table however an extra time win over Man U in the Cup may provide a boost. Finally in the Championship, the form of **Neil Kilkenny** has been a bright spot as Bristol City have gone undefeated in their last six games.

England (League One) – the Aussie presence is strong at Oldham Athletic. Starters **Alex Cisak** and **James Wesolowski** have now been joined by short-term signing, **Dean Bouzanis**. A frustrating month as the string of wins required to move into the top half of the table still allude them. Continuing poor form has seen Chesterfield move to last on the table with **Aaron Downes** in and out of the team.

England (League Two) – **Shane Cansdell-Sheriff** starts every week for a Shrewsbury team that find themselves a point shy of the automatic promotion places after a great month.

Italy (Serie B) – **Carl Valeri’s** Sassuolo have been patchy this month but still sit a point adrift of the automatic promotion places. Carl has missed a fair chunk of game time with international commitments.

Italy (Serie C2) –**Francesco Stella** (Borgo a Buggiano) continues to play great minutes and managed to open his scoring account during November. The same can be said for **Christian Esposito** (FC Catanzaro) as they currently sit third on the table.



Jonas Salley returned from his stint in China and was rushed into the Gold Coast line up to face Victory. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Spain (Segunda division) – Alcorcon are sitting mid table with **Dave Carney** making his debut during the month.

Germany (Bundesliga) – Nikita Rukavytsya finished the month back in the starting eleven at Hertha Berlin. Their results have been inconsistent though as they are currently mid table. **Matthew Leckie** has returned from injury, but can’t get back into the senior side who have moved to second in the Bundesliga. **Mitch Langerak’s** Dortmund have returned to be the league leaders, but only by goal difference.

Germany (2. Bundesliga) – Fortuna Dusseldorf continue their stay at top of the league. **Robbie Kruse** has been a squad player of late, particularly with national team duties taking him away, meaning he only saw 15 minutes of action during the month.

Netherlands (Eredivisie) – AZ also remain top of the league in Holland. **Brett Holman** is back from injury, and can’t stop scoring at both club and national level. On the world stage, he has possibly been the most prominent so far this season. FC Utrecht continue to slide down the table with **Michael Zullo** appearing to be making the most progress in terms of game time. Both **Adam Sarota** and **Tommy Oar** are in the match day squad most games but are getting limited minutes.

Scotland (Premier) – from an Aussie perspective, a little more to get excited about with **Matt McKay** making a few appearances for league leaders Rangers. A few dropped points of late has seen their lead stripped back to four points. **Ryan McGowan** has started the past few games for Hearts as they remain mid table.

Scotland (Second division) – former Fury defender **Beau Busch** (Arbroath) is a regular starter as his side are behind leaders Cowdenbeath only on goal difference. **Matthew Park** (East Fife) is certainly justifying his loan move given he has started 13 of 14 fixtures so far this campaign and is getting much

needed game time.

Greece (Super League) – a quiet month for both **Nathan Burns** (AEK) and **Apostolis Giannou** (PAOK). AEK have climbed to second after three straight wins while PAOK remain fifth.

Greece (Football League) – having recently commenced the season, **Billy Konstantinidis’** Pierkos have started reasonably with Billy coming off the bench most weeks.

Turkey (Super Lig) – James Troisi (Kayserispor) had an interrupted month with Socceroos duties, but did manage to get of the scoring charts against Trabzonsor earlier in the month. His side continue their inconsistent form and currently sit just out of the relegation places.

Croatia (1. HNL) – Hajduk Split are struggled to catch leaders Dinamo Zagreb, however **Steve Lustica** has now made eight starts for the season along with scoring his first goal for his new club. The strong form of **Tomi Juric** has seen him earn a starting eleven place at Lokomotiva during the month.

Portugal (Liga de Honra) – Atletico CP (**Caleb Patterson-Sewell**) remain top of the league with their lead reduced to two points. Caleb has played every minute of the season, fair to say he has been instrumental in his team’s success.

Russia (Premier League) – as the league goes into the long winter recess, Dinamo are third on the table. **Luke Wilkshire** is a main stay of his team, so much so that rumours are swirling that several clubs are looking to poach him in the January transfer window.

Switzerland (Super League) –Basel are also top of the league. Veteran **Scott Chipperfield** has started to get some more game time across league, Cup and Champions League fixtures.

Hungary (NB II) – Sasa Macura (MTK) has started the Cup games played in November.

Denmark (Superliga) – Nathan Coe has played every minute for Sonderjyske who remain near the bottom of the table but well clear of relegation. Brondby are in a similar place in the league with **Brent McGrath** having now made thirteen appearances (from 17 games) this campaign.

China (Super League) – the season has come to an end with Beijing Guoan (**Joel Griffiths**) and Liaoning Hongyun (**Dean Heffernan**) gaining places in the Asian club competitions for next season. Chengdu Blades (**Salley and Santalab**) were relegated but not without last day drama. They went ahead with a penalty in the 90th minute, only to concede an equalizer in injury time. One point was not enough, three points would have avoided relegation...

Joel Griffiths (Beijing) – 2232 minutes, 26 appearances and 11 goals
Dean Heffernan (Liaoning) – 1846 minutes, 24 appearances
Adam Griffiths (Hangzhou) – 979 minutes, 15 appearances and 1 goal
Dino Djulbic (Shaanxi) – 2168 minutes, 26 appearances and 3 goals
Brendon Santalab (Chengdu) – 689 minutes, 11 appearances and 5 goals
Jonas Salley (Chengdu) – 2173 minutes, 25 appearances

Japan (J League) – with one round to go, one point separates leaders Kashiwa Reysol and Nagoya Grampus (**Josh Kennedy**). A further point back sits Gamba Osaka, with all three teams playing away in the last fixture and Nagoya having clearly the better goal difference, will go down to the wire. To make matters more interesting, Josh leads the Golden Boot by two goals, will be an interesting last day. During November, Nagoya went on a run of five consecutive victories with Kennedy scoring in his last three starts. Shimizu S-Pulse did drop off the pace a little but the contributions of **Eddy Bosnar** were huge with the big defender scoring twice during the month. While not scoring, **Alex Brosque** continues to start for the same team. Interestingly, **Spiranovic** has dropped out of the starting eleven since going away on

national duty earlier in the month.

Japan (J2 League) – Jade North started several games for Tokyo as they secured the title and promotion back to the J League. **Mark Milligan** had an interrupted month courtesy of his second red card in a month. To be fair, the first was rescinded, but Mark has racked up a few yellows of late as well. With the last fixture yet to be played, JEF could climb to sixth if results go the right way, but failure to gain promotion will mean some interesting choices for Mark in the off season.

U.A.E. (UFL) – the season is now underway with the Aussies making an impact. **Lucas Neill** Al Jazira’s lead the league with Lucas not missing a minute and scoring the winner away to Ajman. **Richard Porta** has made a few appearances as Al Wasl are third. **Mark Bresciano’s** Al Wasr have won their last two but particularly pleasing is Mark’s two goals in his three appearances

India (I-League) – the new season is now a month old. Most of our Aussies are seeing good game time and are well placed on the league table. **Daniell Zeleny’s** Mohun Bagan are second, closely followed by **Antun Kovacic** (Churchill Brothers) and **Tolgey Ozbey** (East Bengal). Interesting Ozbey recently hit a hat trick however still trails by four in the race for the Golden Boot.

New Zealand (Premiership) – leading the Golden Boot is Aussie **George Slefendorfas** (Canterbury United). Early in the season, but his side are third on the table. **Tyson Holmes** (Team Wellington) has played every minute of the season so far.

Injuries:- Not many players getting out of the medical room with **Garcia** (knee), Ireland (thigh), **Tombides** (cancer treatment), **Gulum** (knee), **Grella** (hip), **Milicevic** (back), **Leach** (Ankle) and **Milovanovic** (leg) all still missing from their club teams. Up the upside, **Brett Holman** is back without missing a beat. **Aaron Mooy**, **Adrian Uccchino** and **Theo Markelis** are also back in match day squads after long injury breaks.

Club Competitions:-
Europe
(UEFA Champions League) **Scott Chipperfield** started once and came off the bench in the other fixture for Basel, while **Mitchell Langerak** remained on the bench for Dortmund’s only fixture. (UEFA Europa League) **Nathan Burns** (AEK) played the first half in the home loss to Lokomotiv Moskva. While **Mark Schwarzer** (Fulham) was in goal for the 4-1 win against **Wisla Krakow**. **Brett Holman** started in both draws for AZ during November.
Asia
(AFC Champions League) No Aussies remain.
(AFC Cup) No Aussies remain.

Youth:- During the month, at the “NextGen Series”, numerous Aussies saw game time; **Massimo Luongo** (Tottenham), **Jackson Irvine** (Celtic)

and **Reece Caira** (Aston Villa). In terms of some of the progress by youngsters, **Costa Andricopoulos** (Anorthosis) is a regular in the U21’s and getting closer to the senior team. Keeper **Alex Baird** (Newcastle) has got to the reserves squad, **Kearyn Baccus** has been playing for Le Mans II and **Mike Urwin** (Koblenz) seems to have cemented his spot in the senior team

National level :- A mixed bag in the World Cup qualifiers with a 1-0 loss away to away, however a 1-0 away win to Thailand secured progression to the next stage courtesy of **Brett Holman**. The next fixture will not be until February. The Olympic team could only manage 0-0 draws in both their fixtures, meaning away wins will become crucial if we are to qualify for London. No problems for the U19’s in Malaysia, coasting through undefeated and amassing 20 goals in four games. Great to see the names of the future on show.

Transfers :- Seemingly all one way traffic this month with many Aussies heading to a variety of destinations. The leagues in Greece have kicked off, so a bit of movement there. The loan window has just closed, a few Aussies caught up in that. Football in Indonesia is still a little confusing, but some games have been played and a few Aussies have new homes. With foreigners now being permitted to play in Malaysia, some Aussies are venturing there for the new season.

Additions/changes to database: -
Michael Baird (1 Aug 1983) – transferred to Sabah, Malaysia
Dean Bouzanis (2 Oct 1991) – transferred to Oldham Athletic, England
Corey Gameiro (7 Feb 1993) – loan to Hayes and Yeading United, England
Brendan Gan (3 Jun 1988) – transferred to Sabah, Malaysia
Robbie Gaspar (7 Feb 1981) – transferred to Persib Bandung, Indonesia
Mario Karlovic (29 May 1984) – transferred to Persebaya Surabaya 1927, Indonesia
Doug Lindberg (27 Mar 1988) – loan to Sleaford Town, England
Shane Lowry (12 Jun 1989) – loan to Millwall, England
Andrew Maclean (1993) – transferred to Hamilton Academical, Scotland
Nikodin Matic (28 Aug 1992) – transferred to Farnborough, England
Sean Rooney (1 Mar 1989) – transferred to Deltras Sidoarjo, Indonesia
Jonas Salley (16 Mar 1982) – loan to Gold Coast United, Australia
Peter Skapetis (1995) – transferred to Birmingham City, England
James Stojcevski (1995) – transferred to Karlsruher SC, Germany
Chris Sullivan (3 Nov 1988) – transferred to Apollon Kalamaria, Greece
Christos Tomaras (14 Jan 1989) – transferred to Paniliakos, Greece
Daniell Zeleny (19 Oct 1988) – transferred to Mohun Bagan, India

Removed from database:-
Marc Villascusa (21 Aug 1991) – released by Cittanova Interpiana, uncontracted

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•SALES•RENTAL

Blues and Magpies in MOTD

EPL Wrap



Steven Talevski

It was a weekend of draws for the top English Premier League clubs as Manchester City kept their five point lead on the Premier League table after a one all draw away to Liverpool.

A 31st minute Vincent Kompany header opened the scoring at Anfield before an unfortunate Joleon Lescott own goal two minutes later earned Liverpool a point.

Manchester City ended the game with ten men after Mario Balotelli received a second yellow card in the 82nd minute after only being on the field for 17 minutes.

Liverpool went into the match without Craig Bellamy who missed the game on compassionate grounds due to the sudden death of close friend Gary Speed.

Just two days later, Craig Bellamy made an emotional return for Liverpool as they defeated Chelsea 2-0 at Stamford Bridge in a Carling Cup quarter final.

Before the kick-off, Craig Bellamy wept during the one minute applause dedicated to Gary Speed which ended with both sets of fans chanting 'There's only one Gary Speed'. The chant was repeated from the Liverpool faithful late in the game as Craig Bellamy was substituted after assisting in both goals.

After the match Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said, "We know Craig [Bellamy] is a fantastic footballer and he had a hugely disappointing day on Sunday, when Speed passed away. He regarded Gary Speed as a mentor."

"For someone to come back and play like that speaks volumes for them, as a person and player."

Liverpool's draw at home against Manchester City sees them in sixth spot level on points with seventh spot Arsenal who only managed one point against Fulham at the Emirates Stadium.

Thomas Vermaelen found himself on the score sheet for both teams as he found the bottom corner of the goal in the 65th minute to hand Fulham the lead. However he got a



goal back for Arsenal in the 82nd minute after his header went into the back of the net.

Arsenal next face Wigan who got off the bottom of the table thanks to a 93rd minute Franco Di Santo penalty to defeat Sunderland at the Stadium of light 2-1.

Fulham will look for their first Premier League win when they host Liverpool who are on an eight match undefeated streak in the Premier League.

In another top of the table encounter, Newcastle United earned a point at Old Trafford against Manchester United.

Javier Hernandez opened the scoring in the 49th minute before Newcastle United were rewarded a controversial penalty after Rio Ferdinand's challenge on Hatem Ben Arfa.

Demba Ba stood up and comfortably put the ball into the back of the net in the 64th minute as Manchester United could not find a way to get past Newcastle United goalkeeper Tim Krul.

After the match Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson criticised both the referee and his assistant.

"I didn't think anyone in the ground thought it was a penalty apart from the assistant referee" Ferguson said.

"The referee thought it was a corner. He was nearer to it. He was only eight yards away."

"The problem is that the referees are full-time and the linesmen are not, and whether he ever gets a game again, the assistant ref-

eree, is not for me to decide but it was an absolutely shocking decision."

"It costs you. Two years ago when the linesman gave the offside goal against Chelsea it cost us the league, so hopefully we're not saying that at the end of May."

The draw means Manchester United remain five points behind ladder leaders Manchester City in second position, while Newcastle United sit in fourth spot on the table.

Manchester United next travel to Villa Park to face Aston Villa who are coming off an emotional draw away to Swansea City following the death of Welsh great Gary Speed. Meanwhile Newcastle United host Chelsea who earned a comfortable three points in a three nil victory at Stamford Bridge against Wolverhampton Wolves courtesy of goals from John Terry, Daniel Sturridge and Juan Mata.

An away victory for Chelsea will see them go past Newcastle United in fourth position; however Newcastle United's Hatem Ben Arfa claims his club could go all the way and take the title.

"I think if we gain in confidence, we can go and get the title," he told The Sun.

However Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew claims the focus is on the next game they play.

"We're not dreaming or anything, we're just

thinking about beating Chelsea next week and we prepare from now for that" he said. The weekend also saw Tottenham Hotspur extend their Premier League undefeated streak to ten games after a comeback victory against West Bromwich Albion who opened the scoring through Youssef Mulumbu in the tenth minute.

A double from Emmanuel Adebayor and Jermain Defoe was enough to ensure Tottenham climb seven points behind Manchester City with a game in hand.

Tottenham next face Bolton at White Hart Lane after they were defeated by Everton 2-0 at Goodison Park.

Everton will look for their third straight Premier League victory when they host Stoke City who defeated Blackburn.

The loss ensured Blackburn went bottom of the table due to Wigan's victory over Sunderland. Blackburn next host Swansea City at Ewood Park.

In the Premier Leagues only other match, Norwich City defeated Queens Park Rangers 2-1 at Carrow Road.

QPR will look to avenge their defeat when they host West Bromwich Albion while Norwich City has the tough task of travelling to the Etihad Stadium to face top of the table Manchester City.

In the Premier Leagues only other match this weekend Wolverhampton Wolves hosts Sunderland at the Molineux Stadium.

Berlusconi to return to Milan

Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi intends to regain full control of Serie A champions AC Milan.

Berlusconi first bought the club in 1986, staving off bankruptcy and overseeing an era of considerable success.

Now 75, Berlusconi stood down from his role as club president in 2008, when he began his third term as Italian PM.

He resigned from the Italian government earlier this month, with his priorities apparently returning to football.

"I will take back AC Milan's presidency as soon as possible," Berlusconi said.

"I am the president who has won the biggest number of titles in the world."

"(Santiago) Bernabeu, who is second,



behind me, won half of my titles."

Berlusconi's claim about being the most successful president is incorrect.

Milan have won 28 individual trophies during his reign, but Pinto da Costa has seen Porto lift 51 titles since he took charge of the club in 1982.

Anelka on Redknapp's radar

Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp is open to signing Nicolas Anelka after praising the Chelsea striker as a 'fantastic goalscorer'.

Anelka has found his chances limited at Stamford Bridge this season with the emergence of Daniel Sturridge and Juan Mata making it difficult to hold a starting place in the side.

Tottenham themselves appear to be light on for strikers with Roman Pavlyuchenko suffering a knee injury in a training ground collision with Andros Townsend ahead of the Europa League tie against PAOK, meaning Jermain Defoe is expected to keep his place in the starting line-up after scoring against West Brom on Saturday. But with Anelka a possible casualty during the January transfer window, Redknapp is refusing to rule out signing the striker who burst on to the scene as a teenager with north London rivals Arsenal.

"I've always liked him," he said. "I think he's a fantastic goalscorer." "I wouldn't stand here and say, 'No, never' because if I signed him, you'd say I was lying."

"It's not a bad shout. He's a good player."

Tottenham are in a relatively strong position in Group A of the Europa League, level on seven points with Rubin Kazan and only one point behind Wednesday's opponents.

Spurs are looking to bounce back from their 1-0 defeat in Kazan last time out as they take on PAOK, who they secured a goalless draw with in the first match of the group stages.

With the fixture schedule once again being criticised by managers, Redknapp is wary about tiring out his players now before the important run-in later on in the season.

"After the Real Madrid game last season we fell away a bit, but if we'd have had a decent run then we'd have been very close to a top-four finish last year," he said.

"Certainly, we'd have made the Champions League but like a lot of teams, we couldn't sustain it late on. But we are bang there again this year."



D-day arrives for UCL group stages

By Mark Smith

Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini says his side have only a 30% chance of qualifying for the Champions League last 16 following defeat by Napoli.

City lost 2-1 in Italy last Tuesday and now need to beat Bayern Munich and hope Villarreal at least draw against Arsenal if they are to reach the next stage.

"Our target was to go into the second stage and [now] we are depending on other teams," Mancini said.

Mancini rated City's chances of progress as "70% to Napoli, 30% to us".

The Italian refused to give up all hope, but put the onus on Villarreal to field a strong side against the Italians despite the Spaniards having little but pride to play for.

"If Villarreal play a normal game they may still get a result," he said. "If they play a serious game we can still get to the second stage.

"But Napoli are the favourites and life doesn't finish if we don't get through.

"We have still got another match to play and if we don't qualify we will play in the Europa League. Everything is not finished - never say never."

City were second best in Italy, with Edinson Cavani hitting an impressive double for the home side.

The prolific striker, who has now scored four goals in five Champions League appearances this season, grabbed a near-post header in the first half before netting the winner after 48 minutes when he side-footed home Andrea Dossena's cross.

Mario Balotelli had drawn City level just before half-time when he tapped home from two yards out after David Silva's shot had been parried into his path by Morgan de Sanctis.

The Premier League leaders struggled to impose their fluent attacking game on

their hosts, but Mancini insisted the score-line flattered the Italians.

"We didn't deserve to lose this game," he added. "After our equaliser we had two more chances to go 2-1 up. It is strange that we conceded this goal after 10 minutes.

"We had other chances to score. Their keeper was fantastic and saved three or four chances, but if you lose probably you have made mistakes.

"We conceded two stupid goals."

Midfielder James Milner, who impressed in City's midfield, echoed his manager's thoughts and turned his attentions to Sunday's Premier League clash with Liverpool at Anfield.

"We had more than enough chances to win the game but they are a very good team and they were good on the break," said the former Aston Villa man.

"We gave two sloppy goals away and you can't afford to do that in the Champions League.

"It's a learning curve and we have to make sure we bounce back from it. We will pick ourselves up and hope to put in a performance on Sunday."

EUROPA LEAGUE

Tottenham's chances of Europa League progression are in jeopardy after a 2-1 loss to PAOK, while Atletico Madrid advanced to the knockout stages.

The Greek side had Dimitris Salpingidis and Stefanos Athanasiadis to thank for early goals on Wednesday, and they held firm with 10 men to record a famous win after Luka Modric pulled one back from the spot.

Teenage defender Kostas Stafylidis was sent off for the handball that led to the Modric penalty at White Hart Lane.

Late drama saw Jermain Defoe net what appeared to be an equaliser, but it was ruled out for an earlier foul committed by



PAOK Salonika stun Tottenham in the Europa League and break the London side's unbeaten home record this season.

the forward.

The result leaves the English Premier League side third in Group A, behind PAOK and Rubin Kazan, and relying on a big win over Shamrock Rovers and the Russians losing in Greece in the group's final matches.

Paraguayan striker Nelson Haedo Valdez's brace led Rubin Kazan to a 4-1 win over Shamrock Rovers, and the boost in goal difference could be vital if they are to progress.

Meanwhile, La Liga outfit Atletico Madrid advanced and left Celtic's campaign hanging in the balance after a hard-fought 1-0 win in their Group I clash in Glasgow.

Turkey international Arda Turan hit a low shot past goalkeeper Fraser Forster, who got a hand on the effort but was unable to keep it out.

The 30th-minute winner means Celtic must beat Udinese in Italy on December 15 after the Serie A side moved three points clear in second with a 0-0 draw at Ligue 1 side Stade Rennes.

In Group B, Standard Liege and Hannover both progressed to the last 32.

The Belgians beat Hannover 2-0 thanks to goals from Mohammed Tchite and Zoro Cyriac Gohi Bi at Stade Maurice Dufrasne.

Despite the loss, the Bundesliga side go through after Copenhagen could only manage a 1-1 draw against Vorskla Poltava in Ukraine.

Copenhagen striker Dame N'Doye was the lone player on the scoresheet - finding the net for his team after earlier scoring an own goal.

Championship outfit Birmingham City are in danger of elimination after slumping to a 1-0 loss at Sporting Braga.

Midfielder Hugo Viana's 51st-minute effort confirmed Braga's spot in the last 32, while Birmingham need to beat Maribor and rely on Club Brugge losing in Portugal to advance.

The Belgians moved top of the group after a remarkable come-from-behind 4-3 win over Slovenian champions Maribor.

Trailing 3-0 away from home with less than 20 minutes to play, Club Brugge produced a stunning comeback with Nabil Dirar's brace sending them on their way

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 6																
Group A				P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	Group E			
1 München	5	4	1	0	11	4	7	13	1 Leverkusen	5	3	0	2	7	7	0
2 Napoli	5	2	2	1	8	6	2	8	2 Chelsea	5	2	2	1	10	4	6
3 Man City	5	2	1	2	7	6	1	7	3 Valencia	5	2	2	1	12	4	8
4 Villarreal	5	0	0	5	2	12	-10	0	4 Genk	5	0	2	3	1	15	-14
Manchester City v Bayern München																
Villarreal v Napoli													Chelsea v Valencia			
													Genk v Bayer 04 Leverkusen			
Group B				P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	Group F			
1 Inter	5	3	1	1	7	5	2	10	1 Arsenal	5	3	2	0	6	3	11
2 Trabzon	5	1	3	1	3	5	-2	6	2 Marseille	5	2	1	2	4	2	7
3 Lille	5	1	2	2	6	6	0	5	3 Olympia	5	2	0	3	5	5	6
4 CSKA	5	1	2	2	7	7	0	5	4 Dortmund	5	1	1	3	4	9	-5
Lille v Trabzonspor													Olympiacos v Arsenal			
Inter v CSKA Moskva													Borussia Dortmund v Marseille			
Group C				P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	Group G			
1 Benfica	5	2	3	0	7	4	3	9	1 APOEL	5	2	3	0	6	4	2
2 Man Utd	5	2	3	0	10	6	4	9	2 Zenit	5	2	2	1	7	5	2
3 Basel	5	2	2	1	9	9	0	8	3 Porto	5	2	1	2	7	7	0
4 Galati	5	0	0	5	3	10	-7	0	4 Shakhtar	5	0	2	3	4	8	-4
FC Basel 1893 v Man. United													FC Porto v Zenit St Petersburg			
Benfica v Galati													APOEL FC v Shakhtar Donetsk			
Group D				P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	Group H			
1 R Madrid	5	5	0	0	16	2	14	15	1 Barcelona	5	4	1	0	16	4	12
2 Ajax	5	2	2	1	6	3	3	8	2 AC Milan	5	2	2	1	9	6	3
3 Olympique	5	1	2	2	2	6	-4	5	3 Viktoria	5	1	1	3	2	9	-7
4 Zagreb	5	0	0	5	2	15	-13	0	4 BATE	5	0	2	3	2	10	-8
Dinamo Zagreb v Lyon													FC Barcelona v BATE Borisov			
Ajax v Real Madrid													FC Viktoria Plzeň v AC Mila			

and defender Ryan Donk heading in the winner.

PSV Eindhoven continued their unbeaten run in the Europa League with a convincing 3-0 win over Legia Warsaw in Poland.

In a battle between two teams who will advance, Michal Zewlakow, Dries Mertens - from the penalty spot - and Zakaria Labyad netted to see the Dutch side to a

comfortable win.

In the other game, Hapoel Tel Aviv edged Rapid Bucharest 3-1 with all four goals coming in the first half.

Metallist Kharkiv are through in Group G after a comprehensive 4-1 defeat of Austria Vienna, while AZ Alkmaar remain second despite a 0-0 draw at Malmö.



Juve a genuine contender after strong week



Round 13 of Serie A etched Juventus as a true Scudetto contender for some following a gritty 1-0 win at Lazio, but the squad remains coy about its chances. Napoli stumbled, however, Milan was comfortable against Chievo. Meanwhile, Inter struggled past Siena and in midweek, Juventus surrendered the lead in their catch-up game versus Juve.

With Antonio Conte tip-toeing around the subject of the Scudetto race, Juve travelled to Rome for a top of the table encounter with Lazio. Andrea Pirlo's training injury was a hot topic of conversation, but he proved his fitness and was influential as usual. It was a match that could well have seen five or six goals instead of just a solitary strike.

Pirlo was denied by Federico Marchetti from a free-kick while Tommaso Rocchi had two opportunities to score. Juve had not lost at the Stadio Olimpico against Lazio since 2003 and were on their way to keeping the run when a lightning counter-attack involved Pirlo, Mirko Vucinic and Alessandro Matri, whose low cross was swept in by Simone Pepe.

Hernanes thumped the post in the second half and Miroslav Klose, well shackled by the Bianconeri backline, saw his curler kept out by Buffon. Substitute Emanuele Giaccherini was denied at the other end and Matri saw his shot on the turn go off the woodwork.

The match-winner told reporters afterwards: "I play in a great squad that at the moment is playing excellent football. The talent is throughout the squad, as we all have character and start moves from the back without throwing the ball away. It's a



Pato and Silva celebrate scoring the first goal in Milan's 4-0 thumping of Chievo, are are now hot on the heels of Juve.

completely different side to last year. Now we have fun on the pitch and that is the most wonderful thing."

Napoli evoked the ghosts of last season, securing a point at the death in Bergamo. Atalanta took the lead in the second half when Azzurri reject German Denis scored for the tenth time this season. Walter Mazzarri made changes in the middle of a hectic schedule, but Edinson Cavani started and scored dramatically in the 94th minute. A valuable point but once again a match highlighting Napoli's inconsistency.

Milan eased to a 4-0 thumping of Chievo. Thiago Silva was on target, followed by Zlatan Ibrahimovic's 100th in Serie A, a wonderful curling effort. Alexandre Pato tapped in the third after a deflection and Ibrahimovic scored from the spot, all before half-time. Milan's performance was in stark contrast to their city rivals Inter, who stumbled over the line in Siena when Luc Castaignos scored a debut Serie A goal in the last minute. Coach Claudio Ranieri still failed to rule out Inter's Scudetto chances, but the Nerazzurri are eleven points away from first and struggling to impose themselves performance-wise.

Udinese and Palermo kept up their per-

fect home records intact after 2-0 wins over Roma and Fiorentina respectively. Their home form sees the two sides in third and fifth position on the table. Palermo's record is truly remarkable: six played at home, six won and 16 scored. Away from home, six played for no wins and no goals.

Roma striker Pablo Osvaldo punched (the degree of severity depending on which report you read) teammate Erik Lamela following words exchanged in the dressing room after the loss in Udine. Osvaldo is reported to have said to his young teammate: "You've played three games in Serie A and act like a fenomeno," to which Lamela replied, "Shut your mouth, why should I listen to you, you are not Maradona."

Osvaldo received a €50,000 fine and an internal club suspension which means missing the trip to Florence. It may also put him at loggerheads with Italy boss Cesare Prandelli and his 'code of ethics', which has seen players miss out on the national squad after similar misdemeanours. In a public show of affection, the squad went out for pizza on Tuesday night, with Lamela and Osvaldo picking up the bill.

Fiorentina issued fines too, as Andrea Lazzarri and Alessio Cerci were out late following an Italian Cup match last week. It is another case of ill discipline creeping through in the squad, which Delio Rossi must stamp out.

On Tuesday, Napoli and Juventus played out a thrilling 3-3 draw. Twice Napoli led by two goals, but Juve showed their new fighting spirit in the second half to keep their unbeaten start. Napoli was up for the task in front of a packed Stadio San Paolo as Juve altered their usual 4-3-3 system to mirror Napoli's three-man defence.

The visitors looked out of sorts as Marek Hamsik converted a penalty, but, ordered to retake because of encroachment, he blasted over the bar. He nodded in shortly after and just before half-time Goran Pandev doubled the lead. Matri gave Juve hope three minutes into the second period, but Pandev looked to have sealed the result with his second. In the final 20 minutes the Old Lady netted twice, through Marcelo Estigarribia's debut goal and Pepe, scoring for the third consecutive match.

Looking towards the weekend, Fiorentina and Genoa face difficult home matches as Roma and Milan visit. Alberto Malesani is rumoured to be close to the end at Genoa and a loss could seal the deal, while Coach Rossi will be hoping Stevan Jovetic makes a return versus Roma. Inter welcomes Udinese to the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, in what represents an important test for both sides. Juventus and Napoli will be expected to win against Cesena and Lecce respectively. Pirlo is suspended for Juve, but they welcome back Claudio Marchisio, while Napoli should recover Cavani, who did not feature on Tuesday.

Lazio are aiming to improve their home form (two wins from six) when they face Novara. Parma hosts the hot and cold Palermo, for whom Fabrizio Miccoli is a doubt, while Bologna entertains Siena. Catania will take on a struggling Cagliari as Chievo looks to rebound against high-flying Atalanta.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Real in front, but it's far from over

Real Madrid pulled an impressive 6 points clear on the weekend with a 4-1 derby win over Atletico Madrid on the weekend, as Barcelona suffered a shock 1-0 loss away to Getafe.

However, Barcelona immediately trimmed back that lead to 3 points overnight with a reassuring 4-0 win at home to Rayo Vallecano in game played ahead of time to accommodate for Barcelona's World Club Cup campaign in Japan next month. Barca's Alexis Sanchez, having just returned from injury, scored twice in a timely revitalizing victory for Catalan club, in a title race threatening to blow out in favor of Spanish capital city.

Whilst Real Madrid have arguably begun playing more attacking and entertaining football this season, for the past two weeks the club has been on the fortunate side of match officials, which accounts for the Real's current lead at the top of La Liga standings. The weekend prior, Real's opponents Valencia FC were denied a clear late penalty claim against Real Madrid's Gonzalo Higuain, who via video replays, was seen to use an outstretched arm to block a Valencia shot on goal.

This weekend, Real Madrid, down a goal at home at a packed Santiago Bernabeu after just 15 minutes, were awarded a 24th minute penalty when Karim Benzema was ruled to have been brought down by Atletico Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. Furthermore, Referee Antonio Miguel Mateu Lahoz had no hesitation in showing a direct red card to Atleti goalkeeper Courtios. Later in the match, Real Madrid were awarded a second penalty

kick, and Atletico Madrid a second red card.

"I personally don't think it should've been a red card." Said Courtois. "The match changed when we ended up 10 against 11. For Real it was easier with the 1-1 and an extra man. In the second half, they were able to score three more goals against us. In derbies, one of the teams can always end up at a disadvantage, but I don't understand how he could send off Godin and me. I don't know if they should've been reds, but they are the referee's decisions. If I had not been dismissed by the referee we could've won here or at least tied because we played well."

It is without doubt that both Real Madrid and Barcelona FC appear to have their way with match officials. More so this season, Real Madrid. One season of Jose Mourinho's public and controversial attacks on referees, Barcelona FC and even charity organisation Unicef, have now clearly affected the minds of La Liga match officials. In fact, even Mourinho acknowledged his good fortune; "Mateu Lahoz is a fantastic referee who gave a great performance tonight from a technical standpoint, but maybe not so from a disciplinary point of view. But he is nevertheless a great referee."

Getafe FC, the only team to beat Barcelona FC this season, are not a La Liga powerhouse club by any stretch of the imagination.

The only stretch of the imagination as far as Getafe are concerned this season, was in the production of their pre-season membership drive video; "There's a problem: there aren't many of us." The video introduction hears.

Marketing director of Getafe, José Antonio Cuétara, said the film is "controversial but very good," Citing that the club has only 9,000 season ticket holders, and needs more to stay competitive in La Liga.

The video, suited to adults, urges Getafe fans to become sperm donors, such that the club can increase its number of supporters.

"If the campaign is successful, we'll have to build a bigger stadium".

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia

The 141st 'Eternal Derby' was won by Partizan in a 2:0 win over arch rivals Red Star in front of almost 50,000 at the 'Marakana' in Belgrade. Partizan is the boss of the city until they meet again next year. In a firing clash Red Star had the first half initiative and came close to opening the scoring twice as Borja missed a sure goal five yards out. The best chance however went to Evandro who sent his 41st minute spot kick to the post with Stojkovic beaten.

The misses would go on to haunt the 'Red and Whites' as Partizan took advantage of their chances. Partizan's best player this season the experienced Zvonimir Vukic broke the dead-lock in the 72nd minute with a fine shot 14 yards out. Six minutes later 20 year old Marko Scepcovic made the most of a defensive error by Ghanaian International Lee Addy to make it 2:0 and confirm the win for the defending Champions who are now 7 points clear at the top of the table.

I'd like to congratulate Partizan on the win. Our heads were down and we

lacked inspiration following the penalty miss. The lads found it tough in the second half after we played some fantastic football in the first 45. Partizan took full advantage of our missed opportunities. This loss has hit me and the club very hard. We are seven points behind the leaders and it will be very tough to stay in touch now. I'm not upset at the missed penalty but I am however very upset at the way we conceded these cheap goals. I'm disappointed at the defender and forwards, I expected much more from them and they failed in their job tonight. "A very disappointed Robert Prosinecki said following the match.

Radnicki Kragujevac remains the only undefeated team in the Serbian Super-Liga following a goalless draw with Jagodina. Vojvodina was too good against Borca putting 4 past the newly promoted side and our now only one point behind Radnicki in fourth. In Round 14 Red Star will look to bounce back when they take on local rivals Rad, while Partizan will be hoping to hand Radnicki their first defeat of the season in the derby match of the round.

The Serbia U/19s will take on Germany, Hungary and Romania in the Elite Round of Euro U/19 Qualifiers.

Croatia

Ljubo Milicevic's and Steven Lustica's Hajduk Split cut the deficit at the top of the Croatian League to eight



Red Star are now 7 points clear. And the eternal derby turned into a fireworks fight.

points following Dinamo Zagreb's goalless draw against Inter Zapresic. Hajduk found it tough against Sibenik but managed to get the points In a 2:1 win, with both goals going to Ivan Lendric. Socceros and Olyroos hopeful Steven Lustica played the first 45 minutes in Hajduks win.

RNK Split dropped points at home to Cibalia in a 1:1 draw which means they are now two points behind city rivals Hajduk. Dinamo remains the front runner in the League with 41 points after 16

Rounds of football, Hajduk is in second eight points behind, NK Varazdin is all but a sure of place in the lower ranks of Croatian football with only seven points at the foot of the table and under pressure from both UEFA and the Croatian FA due to financial trouble which could even propel the club to seize existing.

In the last round before the Winter break Dinamo is on the road to Cibalia while Hajduk welcomes Zadar to the Poljud.



Greece.

Panathiniakos is on top of the Greek League with a two point advantage over second placed AEK Athens and two games less. 'The Greens' were too good for OFI Crete winning 3:1 with all three goals going the clubs foreign legion as Zeca, Cleyton and Leto found the back of the net. Olympiakos is in third with a game advantage over the League leaders but one game less than AEK Athens. The 'Red and Whites' overpowered bottom of the table Doxa Dramas scoring six unanswered goals.

Serbia International Marko Pantelic scored a double. AEK Athens is having a fine start to the season and they continued their rise with a 2:0 away victory over Panaitikos with both goals going to Beleck. PAOK has Qualified for the knockout stages of the Europa League following another fine performance which put them on top of Group A. Laszlo Boloni's men came off Round 5 with a fantastic 2:1 win in London against Tottenham Hotspur. Early goals to Salpingidis and Athasiadis gave the

side a fantastic lead which was too much for the English Premier League side to overturn.

Turkey

In the Derby match of Round 12, A Ricardo Quaresma goal gave Besiktas a 1:0 win away to Trabzonspor.

The 'Black and Whites' are now fifth while Trabzonspor drop to sixth. There's only five points separating first and sixth with Fenerbahce currently on top, three points ahead of rivals Galatasaray and surprise pack Manisaspor. The League leaders had a goalless draw away to Genclerbirligi while nine men Galatasaray overcame Sivasspor 2:1 with former Liverpool striker Milan Baros getting on the score sheet. Troisi's Kaysirispor lost Manisaspor 1:0 and remain in 13th place with 13 points.

League leaders Fenerbahce welcome bottom placed Ankaragucu in Round 13 while Manisaspor is away to Mersin and Galatasaray have a tough encounter away to Genclerbirligi.

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ENGLAND EPL



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Manchester City	13	11	2	0	43	12	+31	35
2 Manchester United	13	9	3	1	30	13	+17	30
3 Tottenham Hotspur	12	9	1	2	26	16	+10	28
4 Newcastle United	13	7	5	1	19	12	+7	26
5 Chelsea	13	8	1	4	28	17	+11	25
6 Liverpool	13	6	5	2	17	12	+5	23
7 Arsenal	13	7	2	4	26	23	+3	23
8 Aston Villa	13	3	7	3	16	17	-1	16
9 Everton	12	5	1	6	15	16	-1	16
10 Norwich City	13	4	4	5	19	21	-2	16
11 Queens Park Rangers	13	4	3	6	14	24	-10	15
12 Stoke City	13	4	3	6	13	23	-10	15
13 Swansea City	13	3	5	5	12	16	-4	14
14 West Bromwich Albion	13	4	2	7	12	20	-8	14
15 Fulham	13	2	6	5	15	16	-1	12
16 Sunderland	13	2	5	6	15	15	+0	11
17 Wolverhampton Wanderers	13	3	2	8	13	23	-10	11
18 Bolton Wanderers	13	3	0	10	19	31	-12	9
19 Wigan Athletic	13	2	3	8	12	24	-12	9
20 Blackburn Rovers	13	1	4	8	17	30	-13	7

GERMANY Bundesliga



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	14	9	2	3	29	9	+20	29
2 Borussia M'gladbach	14	9	2	3	23	9	+14	29
3 Bayern München	14	9	1	4	34	8	+26	28
4 Werder Bremen	14	8	2	4	25	21	+4	26
5 Schalke 04	14	8	1	5	28	20	+8	25
6 Bayer Leverkusen	14	6	4	4	20	19	+1	22
7 Stuttgart	14	6	3	5	20	15	+5	21
8 Hannover 96	14	5	5	4	18	22	-4	20
9 Hoffenheim	14	5	3	6	16	16	+0	18
10 Hertha BSC	14	4	6	4	21	22	-1	18
11 Köln	13	5	1	7	20	29	-9	16
12 Wolfsburg	14	5	1	8	19	28	-9	16
13 Mainz 05	13	4	3	6	19	25	-6	15
14 Nürnberg	14	4	3	7	14	24	-10	15
15 Hamburger SV	14	3	5	6	18	26	-8	14
16 Kaiserslautern	14	3	4	7	10	18	-8	13
17 Freiburg	14	3	3	8	19	30	-11	12
18 Augsburg	14	2	5	7	12	24	-12	11

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Southampton	19	13	3	3	42	20	+22	42
2 West Ham United	19	12	4	3	35	15	+20	40
3 Cardiff City	19	9	7	3	33	22	+11	34
4 Middlesbrough	19	8	8	3	23	17	+6	32
5 Leeds United	19	9	4	6	33	28	+5	31
6 Leicester City	19	8	5	6	26	20	+6	29
7 Brighton & Hove Albion	19	8	5	6	22	21	+1	29
8 Blackpool	19	7	6	6	30	25	+5	27
9 Reading	19	7	6	6	23	21	+2	27
10 Hull City	18	8	3	7	19	20	-1	27
11 Birmingham City	16	7	5	4	23	18	+5	26
12 Crystal Palace	18	7	5	6	18	17	+1	26
13 Peterborough United	19	7	3	9	36	34	+2	24
14 Burnley	19	7	3	9	29	29	+0	24
15 Barnsley	18	6	6	6	21	22	-1	24
16 Derby County	19	7	3	9	23	29	-6	24
17 Millwall	19	5	7	7	23	22	+1	22
18 Watford	19	5	6	8	19	28	-9	21
19 Portsmouth	18	5	5	8	20	21	-1	20
20 Bristol City	19	5	5	9	20	30	-10	20
21 Ipswich Town	18	6	2	10	25	37	-12	20
22 Nottingham Forest	19	6	2	11	18	34	-16	20
23 Coventry City	19	2	7	10	16	29	-13	13
24 Doncaster Rovers	19	3	4	12	15	33	-18	13

Greece Super League



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Panathinaikos	9	7	2	0	23	9	+14	23
2 AEK Athens	11	7	1	3	19	14	+5	22
3 Olympiakos Piraeus	9	5	3	1	17	12	+5	18
4 Atromitos	10	4	5	1	11	10	+1	17
5 PAOK	11	4	3	4	13	10	+3	15
6 Xanthi	11	4	2	5	16	14	+2	14
7 OFI	9	3	3	3	12	12	+0	12
8 Ergotelis	11	3	3	5	12	16	-4	12
9 Panionios	11	3	3	5	11	14	-3	12
10 Panaitolikos	9	3	2	4	9	12	-3	11
11 PAS Giannina	9	2	3	4	9	12	-3	9
12 Asteras Tripolis	9	2	3	4	5	9	-4	9
13 Aris	9	1	4	4	6	11	-5	7
14 Kerkyra	9	1	3	5	7	14	-7	6
15 Levadiakos	3	1	1	1	3	3	+0	4
16 Doxa Dramas	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1

SPAIN La Liga



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Madrid	13	11	1	1	46	10	+36	34
2 Barcelona	14	9	4	1	42	7	+35	31
3 Valencia	13	8	3	2	21	13	+8	27
4 Levante	13	8	2	3	23	12	+11	26
5 Málaga	13	7	2	4	17	16	+1	23
6 Sevilla	13	5	6	2	13	10	+3	21
7 Osasuna	13	4	6	3	16	25	-9	18
8 Athletic Club	13	4	5	4	19	16	+3	17
9 Espanyol	13	5	2	6	10	15	-5	17
10 Atlético Madrid	13	4	4	5	18	20	-2	16
11 Rayo Vallecano	14	4	4	6	15	19	-4	16
12 Villarreal	13	3	5	5	11	19	-8	14
13 Getafe	13	3	4	6	14	19	-5	13
14 Real Betis	13	4	1	8	12	19	-7	13
15 Mallorca	12	3	4	5	10	17	-7	13
16 Granada	12	3	3	6	5	12	-7	12
17 Real Sociedad	13	3	3	7	12	20	-8	12
18 Sporting Gijón	13	3	3	7	12	21	-9	12
19 Real Zaragoza	13	2	4	7	12	27	-15	10
20 Racing Santander	13	1	6	6	9	20	-11	9

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 AZ	13	11	1	1	30	8	+22	34
2 PSV	14	9	4	1	42	16	+26	31
3 Twente	14	7	6	1	33	13	+20	27
4 Ajax	14	6	6	2	37	22	+15	24
5 Feyenoord	14	7	3	4	27	18	+9	24
6 Heerenveen	14	5	7	2	28	22	+6	22
7 Vitesse	14	6	4	4	18	16	+2	22
8 Groningen	14	6	3	5	25	25	+0	21
9 NAC Breda	14	5	3	6	22	23	-1	18
10 Roda JC	14	6	0	8	20	35	-15	18
11 Heracles	14	4	5	5	20	22	-2	17
12 Utrecht	14	4	4	6	24	26	-2	16
13 RKC Waalwijk	14	4	3	7	14	22	-8	15
14 ADO Den Haag	14	4	3	7	17	27	-10	15
15 NEC	14	4	1	9	12	22	-10	13
16 De Graafschap	14	3	3	8	14	30	-16	12
17 Excelsior	13	1	4	8	8	25	-17	7
18 VVV	14	1	4	9	14	33	-19	7

LEAGUE ONE



	Last5games				Most recent first			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Charlton Athletic	19	14	3	1	42	14	+28	46
2 Sheffield Wedn...	19	12	4	4	34	24	+10	39
3 Huddersfield Town	19	10	8	1	37	17	+20	38
4 Milton Keynes Dons	19	10	6	3	39	21	+18	36
5 Sheffield United	19	10	5	4	33	22	+11	35
6 Notts County	19	9	4	6	34	27	+7	31
7 Brentford	19	8	5	6	22	20	+2	29
8 Carlisle United	19	8	5	6	25	28	-3	29
9 Stevenage	19	7	7	5	24	18	+6	28
10 Bury	19	8	3	8	25	27	-2	27
11 Tranmere Rovers	19	7	5	7	20	21	-1	26
12 Oldham Athletic	19	7	5	7	27	29	-2	26
13 Hartlepool United	19	7	5	7	24	26	-2	26
14 Preston North End	19	8	2	9	32	36	-4	26
15 Colchester United	19	5	8	6	26	30	-4	23
16 AFC Bournemouth	19	6	5	8	22	26	-4	23
17 Exeter City	19	5	5	9	20	30	-10	20
18 Leyton Orient	19	4	7	8	19	29	-10	19
19 Scunthorpe United	19	3	9	7	25	30	-5	18
20 Rochdale	19	4	5	10	22	35	-13	17
21 Walsal	19	3	7	9	18	25	-7	16
22 Yeovil Town	19	3	7	9	21	30	-9	16
23 Wycombe Wanderers	19	3	4	12	20	32	-12	13
24 Chesterfield	19	3	4	12	23	37	-14	13

France Ligue 1



	Last5games								Most recent first
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Montpellier	15	10	3	2	32	17	+15	33	WWDWW
2 PSG	15	9	3	3	26	15	+11	30	LLDWW
3 Lille	15	7	7	1	24	13	+11	28	WDDWW
4 Stade Rennes	15	8	4	3	27	19	+8	28	WWDLW
5 Olympique Lyon	15	8	2	5	25	17	+8	26	LWLWL
6 Toulouse	15	7	5	3	15	12	+3	26	WDLWD
7 Lorient	15	6	5	4	17	14	+3	23	LWLWD
8 Saint-Étienne	15	6	5	4	17	17	+0	23	WWDLW
9 Olympique Mars...	15	5	6	4	20	15	+5	21	LWLVVV
10 Caen	15	5	4	6	22	23	-1	19	LDWLL
11 Sochaux	15	4	5	6	21	30	-9	17	LLWDD
12 Dijon	15	5	2	8	17	29	-12	17	WWLLL
13 Evian TG	15	3	7	5	19	22	-3	16	LWDWD
14 Bordeaux	15	3	7	5	17	21	-4	16	WLDWD
15 Brest	15	2	9	4	15	16	-1	15	LWLWD
16 Auxerre	15	3	6	6	20	23	-3	15	LLWLL
17 Valenciennes	15	3	5	7	15	17	-2	14	LWDDL
18 Nancy	15	3	5	7	12	18	-6	14	LWWLW
19 Nice	15	2	5	8	12	17	-5	11	LLDLL
20 Ajaccio	15	1	5	9	13	31	-18	8	LDLLL

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